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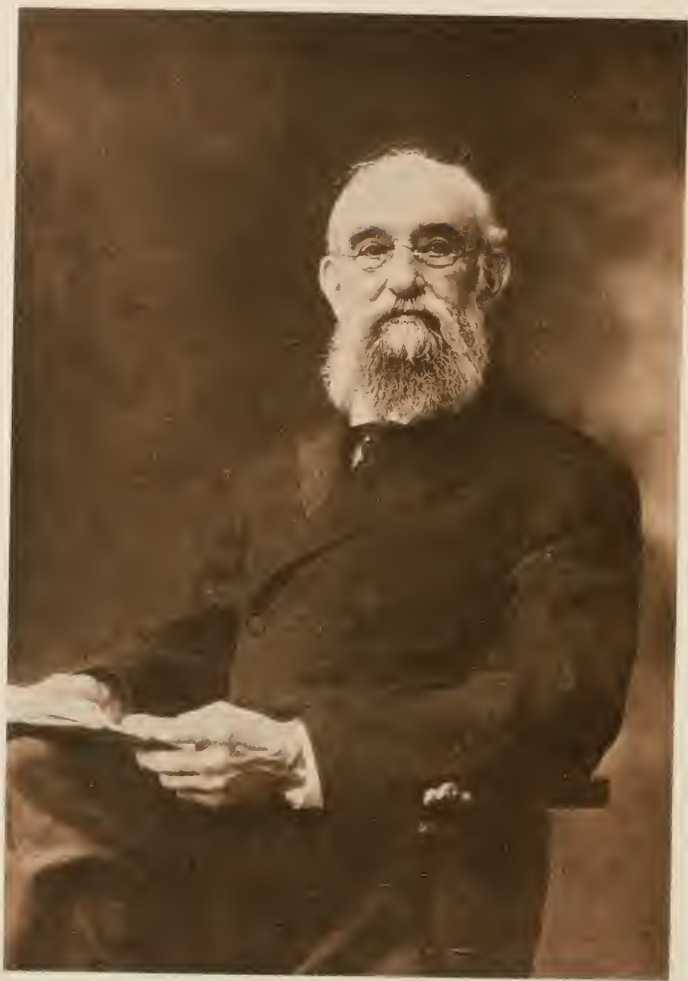


THE REVEREND HENRY NITCHIE COBB, D.D.









Henry N. Cobb

# IN MEMORIAM

THE REVEREND  
HENRY NITCHIE COBB, D.D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
THE REFORMED CHURCH  
IN AMERICA  
1882-1910

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THIS Memorial Volume is the tribute of the members of the Board of Foreign Missions to their colleague and leader of nearly three decades. Words are inadequate to suitably clothe the thoughts and feelings that have prompted this Memorial. It is hoped, however, that it in some measure expresses the high regard and the deep affection in which Dr. Cobb was held by his immediate associates at home and on the broad field of the world, as well as by the entire Church, whose activities in foreign lands were so tenderly and so faithfully fostered by him.



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH





# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

PRESENTED TO GENERAL SYNOD, 1910

**T**HE Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., the beloved Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of our Church for twenty-seven years, was born in New York City, November 15, 1834, and died at his home in East Orange, N. J., on Sunday afternoon, April 17, 1910, aged seventy-five years. Dr. Cobb graduated from Yale College in 1855 and from Union Theological Seminary in 1857. He was licensed and ordained by the Third Presbytery of New York in 1860, and in that same year was sent out by the American Board of Foreign Missions as missionary to the Nestorians in Persia and Koordistan. After two years' service his health gave way and he was compelled to abandon his life plan to be a foreign missionary and to return to America. He became pastor of the Reformed Church in Millbrook, N. Y., where he gave a faithful ministry of fifteen years, from 1866 to 1881, laying the foundations for that wide circle of friendship and that personal devotion to himself which his Christian character, his service for others and his winning personality attracted throughout his life. During that period, in 1877, General Synod elected him a member of the Board of Foreign Missions, and his services and counsels there revealed him to be a man of such value in the work of the Board that upon the retirement of the Rev. John Mason Ferris, D.D., as Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Cobb was promptly elected his successor. The far-seeing wisdom of the Board's selection was increasingly manifest during the twenty-seven years of his service, closing with his death. Dr. Cobb's personal qualities were of the highest and most winning type. Extremely modest, a man of singular purity of character, with an innate and beautiful courtesy of manner, a whole-souled kindness of heart, calm and self controlled, patient and yet steadily persistent amid the weighty responsibilities that marked all his years of varied service as foreign missionary, as pastor and as leader in the administration of the missionary work

of the denomination, Dr. Cobb was a very unusual man. And when there is added the acquired graces of great faith and untiring devotion to the prosperity of the Kingdom of Christ we can but look upon him with profound admiration and love, and bless God for giving him to our Church and to the world. Dr. Cobb's intellectual capacity and activity were markedly illustrated by what he accomplished in his two years' service on the foreign mission field. He not only fulfilled the ordinary duties of a young missionary in proclaiming the Gospel, but he rapidly perfected his knowledge of the language of the people he served, wrote tract letters to the "Helpers of the Nestorian Missions," in the Koordish Mountains, edited a monthly paper, "Rays of Light," in the Syriac language, and published an almanac and Sabbath-School Hymn Book in modern Syriac, besides sending letters to the Home Board and to various religious papers, keeping his field in the constant view of the Church which sent him abroad. And it is not surprising that broken health resulted from such multiplied labors, crowded within two years of his life. Then his fifteen years of the pastorate enlarged his experience and completed the preparation and equipment for his life work as Secretary. In this office he excelled. There was no question of his rightful leadership, and yet that leadership engendered no jealousies, because of the transparent unselfishness of his motives, his complete and perfect knowledge of all phases of the work, and because of his sincere regard for the judgment of his colleagues on the Board. Dr. Cobb possessed rare gifts for the work to which he gave the richest and latest years of his life. He was a man of large vision, of keen discernment, of poise and strong business sense, of great Christian convictions and of sustained and kindling enthusiasm. He had a most thorough knowledge of every aspect of the great work of world evangelization, and was recognized within and without the Church as a great missionary statesman. He gave his whole self to the work in tireless industry, in the utmost promptitude, in the most patient attention to every detail, in his most faithful and appreciated correspondence with the missions and with individual missionaries, in his endeavors to deepen

interest in the churches at home in the work abroad, and in his willing and most helpful identification with every movement which aimed at the enlightenment and enlistment of the constituency at home or the expansion of the work abroad. During Dr. Cobb's secretaryship the work in all our missions greatly advanced, the number of missionaries trebled and the receipts increased almost fourfold. It was during his incumbency that the Arabian Mission, which was organized in 1889, grew to be one of our strongest missions. He officially visited our missions in Asia in 1892, and again in 1904, receiving the warmest welcome from the missionaries, greatly endearing himself to the Oriental Christian constituency and by his valuable counsel greatly strengthening the efficiency of the work in every country which he visited. Hence the mourning for Dr. Cobb is not limited to us who were brothers to him in the homeland where he inspired and led the Church forward to increasing effort and offerings for the Kingdom of Christ. He is mourned today in many lands—in Arabia, in India, in China and in Japan—mourned by the missionaries who loved and trusted him and by those brought out of heathenism who saw him years ago for a day or two, and who heard his encouraging words and received his blessing. An obituary sketch of such a man is not complete if the keynote of his life is not emphasized. Dr. Cobb was a man of great faith—faith in God and His great plans of mercy for a sin-cursed world, provided in and through Jesus Christ, the Lord, and faith in the Church of Christ. He believed in the very center of his soul that He who lived and died for the world is yet to rule it, and that we are called to aid in bringing about that supremacy. With what unwavering confidence did he quote again and again in his reports and addresses the promises and commands of his Master, as if he felt that where the Master laid an injunction on his people He could be trusted to give the needed strength to obey it. His was the modern spirit of missions—the desire in love and loyalty to Christ to make Him known, to make His saving and uplifting power felt in all the earth. All who have heard his addresses on the floor of General Synod and elsewhere will remember the marvelous

effect of his manifest consecration and the power of his earnest and eloquent presentation of the foreign mission opportunity and obligation, his thrilling testimony to the Master's favor on the field, and the to-be-coveted privilege of cooperation in this heaven-born and heaven-ordered work for the salvation of the whole human race and the bringing in the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. May Elijah's mantle fall upon the shoulders of the succeeding Elisha in the secretaryship! Rutgers College gave Dr. Cobb the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1878. Mrs. Cobb, to whom he was married in 1860, survived her husband less than a month. Through fifty years she was his constant companion in life and in thought and his unfailing support. They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not long divided.

## FUNERAL SERVICE



# FUNERAL SERVICE

AT EAST ORANGE, N. J., APRIL 19, 1910

The service at the house, conducted by the Rev. Henry Evertson Cobb, D.D., and the Rev. William I. Chamberlain, Ph.D.

The service at the Central Presbyterian Church, conducted by the Rev. Edward B. Coe, D.D., LL.D., Senior Minister of the Collegiate Church and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Board of Foreign Missions.

Reading of Scriptures :

The Psalms, the Rev. James L. Amerman, D.D.

The Epistle, the Rev. John F. Patterson, D.D.

Address, the Rev. Edward B. Coe, D.D., LL.D.

Prayer, the Rev. John G. Fagg, D.D., President of the Board of Foreign Missions.

## HONORARY PALL BEARERS

The Rev. Dr. L. Francis

The Rev. Dr. J. P. Searle

The Rev. Dr. J. I. Vance

The Rev. J. H. Whitehead

The Rev. Dr. John Fox

Mr. John Bingham

Mr. W. L. Brower

Mr. C. H. Harris

Mr. E. E. Olcott

Mr. F. R. Van Nest





## ADDRESS: DR. COE

ONE by one God's servants fall, but His cause moves on, and the lives that we honor most highly and remember most gratefully are those which have been unselfishly given to promote its progress. Four days ago we were startled by the tidings of the sudden death of one of our most useful missionaries in China. Young, brilliant, enthusiastic, with rare skill in his profession and a singular power to enlist the confidence, the sympathy and the cooperation of others, Dr. Otte fell, a victim to his self-forgetful devotion, and laid down his life in the service of the poor and suffering in that far distant-land. Now it is our leader who is fallen—revered, trusted, beloved; who for more than twenty-seven years has stood in the forefront of our missionary work; dear to all who have known him, dearest to those who have labored with him; a man of singular purity of character, of great faith and great fidelity, wise and farseeing in counsel, efficient in action, recognized far beyond the limits of our Board and of our Church as one of the leaders in this country in the great cause of foreign missions.

God granted him to us for many years, and yet we hoped for more. We saw that his strength was failing under the burdens and cares that rested so heavily upon him and with the steady advance of age, and yet we thought that he might perhaps relinquish some of his labors while we still retained our delightful association with him and enjoyed the benefit of his experience, his counsel, his zeal and his unconquerable faith. But He whose thoughts and ways are not as ours has released him from the earthly service and called him to his great reward. We are gathered here this afternoon, not to review his life and analyze his character and estimate his service—another more fitting opportunity for that will soon be found; we are here, rather, reverently to acknowledge the goodness and grace of God as they were manifested in him; to express our sympathy to those whose loss and sorrow is so overwhelming and to follow him in our thoughts into that larger life on which he has now

entered. Appropriate to this hour, as it seems to me, are only a few words of affectionate personal remembrance and of Christian faith and hope.

And yet even such words are not easy to speak, for he was one of the most modest of men. He would never have consented for a moment to be ranked among great missionaries or great men of any class. In his thought of himself, it seems to me that the most appropriate epitaph for him would possibly be that of the great English soldier who fell in India—"Here lies one who tried to do his duty." He seemed to be utterly unconscious of the honor in which he was held by us and by multitudes of others. He appreciated, I think, the confidence which was so richly reposed in him, and he surely was not unworthy of it. He responded most heartily to the personal affection which was so often and so cordially expressed to him. But there was in him no self-esteem whatever. Clear and strong as his judgments were, with an innate and beautiful courtesy he was always ready to defer to the judgment of others. He was removed in spirit as far as possible from that self confidence and arrogance which so often go with the capacity of leadership like that which he possessed. And yet it is the simple truth that during all these years he had directed our foreign missionary work with singular ability and with ever-increasing success. Our Board is not one of the largest of foreign missionary boards, and yet important responsibilities rest upon it. Its work is carried on in many fields, many missionaries are laboring in connection with it; important questions are constantly coming before it for decision, and it has made itself responsible for the speedy evangelization of many millions of men. The office of secretary in such a board is one of great responsibility, great dignity and great importance. Good men and strong men were associated with him in the work, and yet in it always from the beginning until now he had been their guiding spirit.

There are three reasons, I think, especially for this. One of them was his remarkable knowledge of the work and of the conditions under which it must be carried on; another was the soundness of his judgment and his breadth of view, and another was his abso-

lute sincerity and honesty of purpose. Few men have had a more thorough knowledge of the foreign missionary work. He had studied its history with interest and with insight. He knew the lives of the great missionaries. Many of them he personally knew. He knew well every man and every woman who has gone into the foreign missionary field under the direction of our Board. He was in constant correspondence with them; he visited them again and again; he engaged with them in most earnest and sympathetic conference in regard to their work; he knew their joys and sorrows, their toils and difficulties, their hopes and fears; he entered with them into the perplexing conditions by which they were so often confronted and he rejoiced unspeakably in their successes. He had thus an acquaintance with the work which we as a church are engaged in which was most minute and most exact. It often seemed to me as if he knew not only every man and woman in our foreign missionary service but every building in which the work is carried on. And all this wealth of accurate and sympathetic knowledge he brought to the solution of the problems which faced him and us from time to time. What an unspeakable loss it is to us and to the Church that all this is taken from us, except as it has entered into the settled policy of our Foreign Missionary Society.

And then how clear and sound his judgment was! He was a man of penetrating intelligence, of remarkable mental poise and balance. Intensely interested as he was in the work which engaged his thoughts and prayers, he was under no illusions concerning it. The Forward Movement he entered into most heartily, he labored for it most diligently, he prayed most earnestly for its success. Why should he not? He had been passionately pleading for it for many years. And yet he understood perfectly the tremendous magnitude of the undertaking in which the Church of Christ is engaged. He knew well that not in a year nor in a generation will the whole world be brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He realized that it meant a persistent, mighty, age-long effort. And that is what he wrought and planned and prayed for. Is it any wonder that when his judgment of the great issue before us was so clear

and sound we should have looked to him, as others also looked, for counsel and advice?

I need hardly say a word of his personal sincerity and purity of character, because it was so evident to everybody. His whole soul was in the work to which he gave the best years of his life. What a joy it was to him to visit the scenes in which it is carried on, and how gladly he was welcomed there, greeted with hymns and crowned with flowers! What a delight it was to him to become acquainted with the native workers who, by the labors of the missionaries, had been brought to Christ and who then enlisted in His service. And how his heart was gladdened from time to time as the tidings came of the great and widening success of all our missions. And yet with the joy and interest came also the burden of anxiety. Oh, how heavy it was, and how constantly it rested upon him, day and night, winter and summer, year after year. I doubt if any of us realize what a burden he carried on his mind and heart silently and patiently for so long. He saw so clearly the importance and the urgency of the great missionary work, and the Church at home sometimes seemed to him so slow to rise to a sense of its opportunity and to respond to that opportunity. His was the burden of the Apostle Paul, which he saw fit to single out for special mention in the catalogue of his scourgings and shipwrecks when he said: "That which cometh upon me daily, anxiety about all the churches." He, too, bore it willingly—bore it even gladly—because it was the Master's mind which had laid it upon him, and this was his way of filling up that which was lacking in the sufferings of Jesus Christ. And yet I feel, my dear Christian friends, that it must have been to him an unspeakable relief to lay it down.

But in spite of this his faith never faltered. He believed in the Church. He never doubted that the Church which he so lovingly served would respond to the great appeal which was made to it, and would come up, slowly perhaps, but finally, to the full measure of its opportunity and its duty. Above all, he believed in Christ. With what unwavering confidence did he quote again and again in his reports and in his addresses the promises and the commands of

the Master—the commands more often (it used to seem to me) than the promises, as if he felt that where the Master laid an injunction on His people He could be trusted to give the needed strength to obey it. You remember those addresses—the simple and familiar talks which he gave from time to time to little groups of friends, and the more formal, often the very eloquent, addresses which he delivered on great occasions and at meetings of our General Synod. This was in all of them the dominant note—obedience to Jesus Christ. What he labored for was not merely the salvation of a few souls here and there in non-Christian lands; it was not merely the relief of physical suffering and of social degradation. His was the modern spirit of missions, the desire in love and loyalty to Jesus Christ to make Him known, to make His saving and uplifting power felt in all the earth. And he believed to the very center of his soul that He who lived and died for the world is yet to rule the world.

Here was the secret of his patience. He believed that controversies would subside and that those who were animated by a common purpose would in time and under the guidance of God's Spirit come to an agreement. He believed that difficulties would be removed. And again and again his faith was verified; so with infinite patience he wrote letter after letter, he engaged in conference after conference, and he toiled on, day after day and month after month and year after year, in storm and heat, not sparing himself, unwilling to take even the rest that he needed, laboring often without the necessary help, utterly uncomplaining, never thinking of himself, if only the great work might go on.

And what a joy it was to work with him. In many respects he seems to me to have been the ideal secretary of a missionary society by reason of his coolness, his magnanimity, his sympathy, his conservatism, and at the same time his openness of mind, his promptness in all business matters, his readiness to undertake any labor, his loyalty to the cause and to the Master. He was often weary, he was sometimes disappointed, he was sometimes overruled, but his self-control, his courtesy, his confidence in his asso-



ciates and his loyalty to the Church never for a moment failed. I fear he did not know how much we loved him. I want his family at any rate to know that to us he was not merely a trusted associate and fellow laborer; he was a dear, personal friend. The whole Church loved and trusted him, not we alone, and that is surely eulogy enough for any man. I may, perhaps, be permitted to quote what was said many years ago of another great secretary, my own father, to this effect: That it is much when a single church or congregation calls a man to be its pastor and teacher; it is more when an organization representing many churches elects and welcomes one to the charge of its affairs; but it is a still higher honor when all the churches engaged in a common work put one at their head and give him year after year their unstinted confidence and their loyal support. And that was the honor which came to him.

Others will speak of his relation to the missionary work at large, of the confidence and esteem in which he was held by other missionary boards, and of the respect and deference shown him on great occasions and by great gatherings of Christian men. I may barely allude to his claim upon our grateful recollection as a neighbor and a citizen. We may not forget that he was for many years a preacher and pastor, honored and beloved. But his name is now and always will be chiefly associated with that great cause to which he gave the crowning years of his life. He is mourned today in many lands—in Arabia, in India, in China, in Japan. He is mourned by the missionaries who knew him and who trusted him, mourned by some of those who saw him years ago for a day or two only and have never seen him since, and there are hundreds and thousands of others who never knew him and to whom the tidings of his death will mean nothing, but who have lost in him a benefactor and friend. It is well for us to honor the missionaries—heroes and heroines of the faith—who leave the comforts and opportunities of the homeland and go out to lives of solitude and toil, of disappointment and of sorrow often, sometimes of peril, sometimes ending in a violent death. But no less worthy of honor is a man like this whose labors have made possible the labors and the suc-

cesses of many others, the wise, patient, faithful administrator of a great trust, who has done so much to rouse and raise the Church to the great opportunity and the mighty task which appealed so powerfully to his own soul. Our hearts go out in tenderest sympathy to those whose home is shadowed and broken by his death, but we rejoice with them in the great work that he accomplished. We thank God for his example and for his influence on ourselves and on others. And with the utmost reverence we say, as we close the volume of his life: "He is not here, for he is risen"—to his rest and his reward.





## PRAYER: DR. FAGG

**O** LORD, our Heavenly Father, we come to Thee today with subdued and saddened hearts. We come with grateful and appreciative hearts, with hopeful and believing hearts. We cannot think of the passing on of Thy servant, our beloved friend and co-worker for many years, without a deep and well-nigh overwhelming sense of loss that we shall see his face no more. But we thank Thee with all our hearts for the gift of his life and all that it meant to his home, to his friends, to the Church of Jesus Christ, to the great cause to which he gave the earliest and the latest and richest years of his life. We thank Thee for his noble personal qualities, for his unwearied industry, for his great grasp of the important work committed to his hands, for his high manhood, for his beautiful humility, for his loveliness, for his companionableness, for his lofty spirituality, for his strong and deep convictions, for his knowledge of and love of Thy word, for his love of God and his Saviour, Jesus Christ, for his world vision and his world sympathy and for his longing to see the world brought to the feet of our Divine Lord. We thank Thee for his wise and faithful administration of the work entrusted to him—for the many men and women whom he helped to send out into the great white harvest field of the world. We thank Thee for all the inspiration and comfort he was to the missionaries out in the high places of the field, bearing the burden and heat of the day; for all that he had become to the converts in those Eastern lands who had come to know him and to revere him. And now Thou hast called him hence to deserved and longed-for rest and reward. O God, keep us faithful to the trust which he left behind him. Remember, we beseech Thee, in tender mercy, his bereaved household, the wife and companion of these many years; let Thy most gracious solace abound to her and to the son and daughter and all the circle of relatives and friends. And help us to be here dedicated afresh to the task remaining to us, that from the honored dead we may take

increased devotion to that cause for which Thy servant gave the last full measure of his devotion. And at last, when the strife for us is o'er and the battle done, when the sands of time are sinking and the dawn of heaven breaks, bring us to the General Assembly and Church of the First Born, to the innumerable company of angels, to the spirits of just men made perfect and to a vision of Jesus Christ, our risen and glorified Lord. And unto Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us at last faultless before His throne with exceeding joy, unto Him be glory and honor, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE



# Memorial Service

for the  
Rev. Henry Ritchie Cobb, D.D.  
Corresponding Secretary of the Board of  
Foreign Missions, Reformed  
Church in America  
A.D. 1892-1910



Collegiate Reformed Church

West End Avenue and Seventy-seventh St.  
New York City

Monday Afternoon, April Twenty-fifth  
Nineteen ten, at three o'clock

# The Service

The Reverend Edward B. Coe, D.D., LL.D., Presiding

Senior Minister

Collegiate Reformed Church, New York

Chairman Executive Committee, Board of Foreign Missions

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Organ Voluntary

Hymn No. 489: "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know."

Invocation and Scripture :

THE REVEREND PROFESSOR J. PRESTON SEARLE, D.D.,  
Vice-President, Board of Foreign Missions.

Address:

THE REVEREND JOHN G. FAGG, D.D.,  
President, Board of Foreign Missions.

Address:

THE REVEREND WILLIAM I. CHAMBERLAIN, Ph.D.

Prayer:

THE REVEREND S. M. ZWEMER, D.D.

Hymn No. 845: "Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide."

Address:

THE REVEREND CORNELIUS H. PATTON, D.D.,  
Secretary, American Board of Commissioners for  
Foreign Missions.

Address:

MR. ROBERT E. SPEER, D.D.,  
Secretary, Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

**Prayer:**

THE REVEREND JAMES I. VANCE, D.D.,  
President Board of Domestic Missions, R.C.A.

**Hymn No. 288:** "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done."

**Requiescat**

St. Luke ii: 29.

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to  
Thy word.

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of Thy  
people Israel.

GLORY be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without  
end. AMEN.

**Benediction.**

## Father, Take My Hand



Written by Dr. Cobb, while a Missionary in Persia, A.D. 1862

THE way is dark, my Father! Cloud on cloud  
Is gathering thickly o'er my head, and loud  
The thunders roar above me. See, I stand  
Like one bewildered! Father, take my hand,  
And through the gloom  
Lead safely home  
Thy child!

The day goes fast, my Father! And the night  
Is drawing darkly down. My faithless sight  
Sees ghostly visions. Fears, a spectral band,  
Encompass me. O Father! Take my hand,  
And from the night  
Lead up to light  
Thy child!

The way is long, my Father! And my soul  
Longs for the rest and quiet of the goal;  
While yet I journey through this weary land,  
Keep me from wandering. Father, take my hand;  
Quickly and straight  
Lead to heaven's gate  
Thy child!

The path is rough, my Father! Many a thorn  
Has pierced me; and my weary feet, all torn  
And bleeding, mark the way. Yet thy command  
Bids me press forward. Father, take my hand.  
Then safe and blest,  
Lead up to rest  
Thy child!

The throng is great, my Father! Many a doubt  
And fear and danger compass me about;  
And foes oppress me sore. I cannot stand  
Or go alone. O Father! take my hand,  
And through the throng  
Lead safe along  
Thy child!

The cross is heavy, Father! I have borne  
It long and still do bear it. Let my worn  
And fainting spirit rise to that blest land  
Where crowns are given. Father, take my hand,  
And reaching down,  
Lead to the crown  
Thy child!

[NOTE: "The Gracious Answer," p. 47.]



## INVOCATION: DR. SEARLE

**O** THOU the Triune God of our Salvation, the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we praise Thee for the revelation Thou hast made; we praise Thee for the blessed relationship to which Thou dost call us with Thyself and with Thy dear Son, a relationship that is enduring; we thank Thee for the high and holy service which we begin here, and which, too, is enduring; we thank Thee for the multitudes who have been called by Thy Spirit to this service, and who have known the preciousness of Thy grace, and who have been gathered into Thy rest; and we thank Thee for another life lived in Thy fear and Thy love, lived in close fellowship with Thy dear Son, fruitful and blessed in things measureless to our vision, through Thy grace; we thank Thee for another life finished here, having kept the Faith, and for that life as it is lived now before Thee. Grant, we pray Thee, that we may come into Thy presence this afternoon to be guided by Thy Spirit in each moment of this Special Service. May our hearts go out to Thee, and may we hear from Thee the truths that shall inspire us and strengthen us for faithfulness, and shall deepen our joy in our Lord; so may this whole service redound to Thy glory and to the upbuilding of Thy Kingdom in our hearts, and to Thy great name, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, and our God, shall be all the praise now and forever. Amen.

### READING OF THE FIFTH CHAPTER OF SECOND CORINTHIANS AND TWENTY-SECOND CHAPTER OF REVELATION.

**DR. COE:** Our Board of Foreign Missions has been, during the year, deprived not only of its Senior Corresponding Secretary but of its President, our dear friend, Dr. Hutton, who was taken from us in the month of December. With great unanimity Dr. Fagg has been elected to the position which Dr. Hutton filled, and he will now speak to us as the President of that Board.



## ADDRESS: DR. FAGG

Some one has well said that the record of a great and pure personality is the best bequest of time. It is such a record which we are calling in brief and affectionate review this afternoon.

Henry Nitchie Cobb was one of God's greatest gifts to our Reformed Church in all her history. He was one of her mightiest assets while he lived and the memory of his life will be to her a legacy most precious. He lived, he lives and he will never die. He was a man of noble proportions in physique. He was a man of height and breadth and depth, in mind, in character and in service. What high powers he brought to his work as Secretary of State for Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church, as he himself designated his position at his Twenty-fifth Anniversary in office two years ago. He was an imperial thinker. Some men think in feet and inches; he thought in countries, empires, continents. When in the Adirondacks he once said to me: "I never see a mountain without feeling a challenge to me from it, as if it were saying to me: 'Come up and see the kingdoms which I have to show you.'" That summer, ten years ago, we climbed Whiteface together. As we went up I remember his saying: "Oh, what a splendid text to preach from, those words which grand old Caleb addressed to Joshua when he said, 'Now, therefore, give me this mountain.'" His soul dwelt in a realm of large horizons. His was the passion, the sublime passion of winning a world to Christ. What unwearied application was his. He fulfilled those words in the book of Ezekiel, where it is said: "They shall sever out men of continual employment." He knew little of the gospel of relaxation. He was "by thronging duties pressed." He bore the whole burden of our foreign missionary work, practically the whole burden for ten years. He thought out its problems, problems the magnitude, the weight, the solemn significance of which many who are unacquainted with this work cannot possibly imagine. He wrote every letter to all our foreign missions with his own right hand for sixteen successive

years. For all those years he did not have what even St. Paul, the first missionary propagandist had, an amanuensis. I wonder if we do not feel sorry and ashamed of ourselves today that we have permitted it. And, oh, what fine workmanship his letter writing was. His letters bore the grace and courtesy of a Chesterfield. They bore the foresight and the breadth of a statesman, the common sense of a man of business. They overflowed with the concern and affection of the letters of St. Paul. He was a master in details. La Bruyère's motto, "The best in the least," was his. Nothing ever bore the mark of haste, or strain; everything was carefully considered, nothing was slighted. Thoroughness was written everywhere on everything he did. He did not shrink from hard tasks. He felt the challenge and fascination of difficulty. What he said at his college class meeting, the meeting of the Yale Class of 1855, was altogether characteristic of the man. In the course of the meeting one member of the class got up and said that he was glad that he was getting old and that he was soon to pass away and leave these problems to younger men. When Dr. Cobb got up he said: "I thank God that I am living in a day when there are such great problems to solve, and when I have an opportunity to take part in some of this great work that is doing for the glory of God." Such men get something done. No wonder that the work grew under his fostering care; no wonder that the Church moved forward under his constant urgency and his unquenched and unquenchable enthusiasm. Enlarger of the Kingdom—*Mehrer des Reiches*—is a title of the highest honor which the Germans give only to a few of their greatest warriors and their greatest statesmen. We give it unhesitatingly today to our beloved and now crowned leader.

What a wealth of lofty and gracious personal qualities were his. His was the simplicity of Christ, his was the candor of Christ, his was the meekness of Christ, his was the gentleness of Christ; his was the tender heartedness, the great heartedness, the high heartedness, the strong heartedness of Christ. His was the most real and complete devotion to Christ. "At the center of all his activities we find a man on his knees, praying for the consecrated frame and the

undivided surrender." Our thoughts follow him this afternoon, as he has gone to join that great company, among whom are Verbeck and Brown, Talmage and Kip and Otte, John Scudder, William Scudder, Joseph Scudder, Ezekiel Scudder, and Heeren and Hekhuis and Jacob Chamberlain, Peter Zwemer and Wiersum and Stone, who are each some work sublime, forever working in the spacious tracts of that great land. We can never forget him. We shall miss him for many a long day. But we are confident that

The afterglow of his devoted life  
Will lead others to do and dare for Christ  
And win for Him, through darkness, pain and strife.

DR. COE: It was a great joy to Dr. Cobb when Dr. Chamberlain, whom he had known from boyhood, came into office as his associate and his designated successor. Dr. Chamberlain will speak this afternoon, however, rather as a representative of the missionaries among whom he labored for so many years.



## ADDRESS: DR. CHAMBERLAIN

I am here today in response to a filial duty of a two-fold character. Two years ago this month and almost on this day Dr. Cobb paid a public tribute in this city to the memory of my revered father, his friend in life and his friend in death. It is the sacred privilege of the son to pay in some small measure the debt of the father to his friend and to lay upon the altar of Dr. Cobb's devotion to a cause dear to them both a wreath of love and a tribute of praise.

This duty rests upon me by reason of still another filial relationship. During the years of my academic and divinity courses in college and seminary, those restless years of youth, Dr. Cobb stood to me in the place of a father and a guide. Of that relationship, its tenderness and its closeness, I may not now speak. It is appointed to me to speak of a still wider relationship, that of the missionaries in the field with the Corresponding Secretary at home, a relationship which continued with increasing intimacy and confidence for more than a quarter of a century. In the long and sweet story of human associations which, we all know, began in the great heart of God Himself, there is perhaps nothing so tender and yet so strong as the relationship which grows out of the fellowship of a foreign service in the cause of religion. To the one who stands as a representative of the Church and the country and sometimes even of the family to those exiled ones, for the Master's sake, whose home circle diminishes with the passing years, there is granted an intimacy which is not ordinarily exchanged among men. Measured by this standard the character of Dr. Cobb's relation to the missionaries was ideal. Indeed, an illustration of that ideal relationship with the missionaries is beautifully shown in the closing sentence in a letter to a missionary under appointment which came to me only yesterday:

"May I thank you for the photograph you kindly sent me? I enjoyed exceedingly the interview I had with you the other day,



and shall be very glad if, under the providence of God, I am permitted to have that relationship with you as Corresponding Secretary which has been such a pleasure to me in the case of so many other missionaries."

This, then, is the basis of that ideal relationship between the missionary and the secretary, wherein the missionary both trusts his leader and loves his friend. This statement is equally applicable to all the missionaries and all the missionary fields. It is so easy for even the most experienced foreign mission secretary to allow his interest to follow the line of special conditions, and if it is so difficult to maintain at all times and under all conditions a balance of judgment between the various missions, that one who attains and maintains that attitude toward all the missions may in very truth and without exaggeration be said to occupy not only an ideal but a unique relationship. I think we may claim, even in this presence, that Dr. Cobb was not only an ideal, but a unique Corresponding Secretary.

The question arises in our minds: What was the reason for the singular felicity of his relationship with the missionaries upon the field? Did it arise from the environment in which his service was spent in behalf of the missionaries? I think it a happy circumstance that in these days we have come to realize that missionaries are not very different from ourselves. The halo has been removed and the traditional estimate has been somewhat modified. We have come to realize that they have, with us, like hands and feet and like dimensions and feelings and temptations. I think we may not claim, even from the standpoint of the missionaries, that this singular felicity of his relationship arose alone, or even primarily, from the missionaries' relationship with himself. Rather, may we say, that it arose from a singular and peculiar fitness in Dr. Cobb himself for his high office.

What, then, were some of the qualities and some of the characteristics that rendered him so peculiarly happy in all his relations with the missionaries? A very simple and brief analysis reveals to us, I think, a three-fold equipment as related to the side of the



missionaries and the fields—an acquired equipment, a personal equipment and a spiritual equipment; not so, possibly, in the order of time, but so, probably, in the order of development.

The acquired equipment was that which was derived from circumstances. I include among these his experience as a missionary. Though short it was intense, and it was the background for many years of sympathetic relations with the missionaries engaged in a like service. A second influence was the insight which he gained by reason of long and personal and close fellowship with the missionaries themselves, by reason of which it was his proud claim that every missionary, man or woman, that went to the field during his twenty-seven years of service was personally known to him, not because of mere acquaintance, but by reason of personal ties established with them. Not only was this gained from personal relationship at home but from a further relationship gained by prolonged visits to the field. To China his visits meant a greater effectiveness of work by reason of the settlement of a policy long in question; to Japan they meant a greater power and a greater efficiency of work by reason of closer relations between the Japanese Church and the missionaries upon the field; to India those visits meant a greater joy for the Jubilee time and to Arabia they meant a great increase of work in that new and interesting field. The third element in this acquired equipment was, one which has impressed me more and more, his knowledge gained from careful reading and study of mission literature and reports. I frequently observed his reading of the great biographies and the recent books on mission policy and administration, and his careful perusal of the reports of missionary conferences. He thus acquired an experience, an insight and a knowledge constituting a valuable equipment.

But there was a second and fuller equipment which belonged to our beloved Secretary. This was the PERSONAL, which was derived very largely from a natural endowment and from his knowledge of men and human nature. This includes a long list. His was a sympathy wide and deep; a courtesy never failing; a tact that seldom

erred; a patience always at his command; a self control which was greater by reason of the fact that it was not altogether perhaps natural. And there were other qualities in this personal equipment: a broadness of mind, which enabled him to enter into sympathy with the missionary from his point of view; a sanity and a balance, which we find of great value in its application to problems at home and abroad; a judgement sound and true; a wisdom broad and informed, and a courage without which his work would not have been effective.

Still further we may say that there was a personal equipment of loyalty to the missionary. How we have learned at our council table at home Dr. Cobb's consistent loyalty to the missionary! Then, again, the singularly fine quality of his literary talent, which through these many years has characterized his relationship with the missionaries in his correspondence. There was also his capacity for industry, which gave him his remarkable knowledge of detail; his capacity for business in administration, which gave him his place as the Chairman of the Executive Committee at the Ecumenical Conference of 1900, and membership on most of the strong interdenominational missionary committees in this country; and, finally, his great capacity for friendship, attracting to himself the intimacy of many and the love of all.

His last equipment was, however, the most important of all—the SPIRITUAL. This was derived from a close and personal walk with God. I would speak here of the simplicity of his character, of the beauty of it in all his relations. I would speak again of his sincerity, the reality of it in his relations with his fellow men. I would speak also of his humility, the tenderness of it in his walk with God.

These were some of the fundamental elements in his spiritual equipment, so constantly manifested to those at home in the closest intimacies of his life, and to those associated with him in their activities far hence. I would speak yet again here of the unselfishness of his aims, of his devotion to his duty and, last of all, and perhaps as the fundamental equipment of all, I would speak of his power in prayer.

Those who have come under the influence of that prayerful spirit of our Secretary in the secret place of the home; those who have gathered strength from it as he led them in their approach to the throne of grace in the distant places of the missionary field; those who have prayed with him as he led them at the Thursday noon meetings in the office in New York, know something of his power in prayer. Of this supreme spiritual gift we have a beautiful if pathetic illustration in the prayer which Dr. Cobb wrote while a missionary in Persia, which appears on the Order of Service: "Father, Take My Hand." May I read to you "The Gracious Answer" of God to this prayer of His servant, written by Dr. Cobb also during his missionary career? As I read, it will be seen that the answer follows the petition of each stanza:

### The Gracious Answer

The way is dark, my child! But leads to light,  
I would not always have thee walk by sight.  
My dealings now thou canst not understand.  
I meant it so; but I will take thy hand,  
And through the gloom  
Lead safely home  
My child!

The day goes fast, my child! But is the night  
Darker to me than day? In me is light!  
Keep close to me and every spectral band  
Of fear shall vanish. I will take thy hand  
And through the night  
Lead up to light  
My child!

The way is long, my child! But it shall be  
Not one step longer than is best for thee;  
And thou shalt know at last, when thou shalt stand  
Safe at the goal how I did take thy hand,  
And quick and straight  
Lead to Heaven's gate  
My child!

## DR. COBB: IN MEMORIAM

The path is rough, my child ! But, oh, how sweet  
Will be the rest, for weary pilgrims meet,  
When thou shalt reach the borders of that land  
To which I lead thee, as I take thy hand,  
    And safe and blest  
    With me shalt rest  
    My child !

The throng is great, my child ! But at thy side  
Thy Father walks; then be not terrified,  
For I am with thee; will thy foes command  
To let thee freely pass; will take thy hand,  
    And through the throng  
    Lead safe along  
    My child !

The cross is heavy, child ! Yet there was One  
Who bore a heavier for thee; my Son,  
My Well-beloved Son. For Him bear thine, and stand  
With Him at last, and from thy Father's hand  
    The cross laid down,  
    Receive a crown,  
    My child !

## PRAYER: DR. ZWEMER

O Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations, and the dwelling place of Thy people and the dwelling place of Thy servant whose memory is so precious to us this day. Thou art the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the Covenant God; Thou art not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Thee, and Thou art their God now and our God, and, therefore, our hearts are comforted. Thou hast taken away a friend and a father from all Thy missionaries who knew him and loved him, but Thou hast not left us comfortless. The Holy Spirit who was with our friend and with our father here abides with the lonely missionaries in the field, and this day, O God, we bow our heads and our hearts in submission to Thy will. We thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ revealed in such a life and service, and for the loving kindness and the tenderness of our God. We thank Thee, O Lord, this day with all our missionaries in the field, and with those who are before Thy face, for the life of this Thy servant, for all he was and did and suffered and served, and inherited, for the cross which he bore so patiently, and for the crown which he won so worthily. We thank Thee for his work and faith. O God, Thou alone knowest the sterling, stalwart faith of Thy servant in the days when faith was weak and small, and when those that believed large things were so few; but Thou didst give him faith for leadership and we thank Thee. We thank Thee for his labor of love, for the toil of the office and the toil among the churches, and the toil, unwearying and unwearied, for Thy missionaries, his missionaries, the missionaries of our Church; and we thank Thee for his patience—patience with the work and the workers at home and abroad. We thank Thee, O Lord our God, for his skill in administration; we thank Thee for his talent of leadership; we thank Thee for his faithfulness in office; but we thank Thee most of all, O God, for that which was most precious to us in Thy servant—his sympathy and his prayers. We thank Thee, O

Lord our God, that because he was Thy missionary he was able to sympathize with those whom Thou hast called to do Thy work. Because he was tempted at all points as they were and, like as they were, not without sin, that he was able to suffer this and to succor those that were tempted. We praise Thee, O God, this afternoon, for Thy exceeding great love revealed in Jesus Christ, that Thou hast magnified Thy Son in Thy servant, that the testimony of his life, in his words and in his works which follow him, leaves nothing uncertain as to the strength of his character and the strength of his life and the rock and the foundations of his hope. Thou, O Christ, wert with him; Thou, O Christ, art with us, and this afternoon we thank Thee that he who gave himself so freely and so fully to Thy service and to the service of our beloved Church is now receiving the fulfilment of Thy own promise, good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over of joy everlasting and peace that passeth all understanding and a rest that knows no end. Moses, Thy servant, is dead. O Lord our God, help us to hear Thy voice this afternoon above his voice which we cannot cease hearing, and above the voices of his beloved associates and the voices of those who knew him and loved him. Help us to hear Thy voice. "Moses, my servant, is dead; now, therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, Thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the Children of Israel. Every place that the sole of thy feet shall tread upon that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses."

Baptize us for the dead. Roll the burden of this great work, also, upon our hearts and upon our shoulders as it was upon the heart and the shoulders, the manly shoulders, of Thy servant. And grant, O God, that we may honor him not by speaking of what he did and accomplished and served and suffered, but by finishing the work which he himself as Thy messenger and Thy spokesman has so often pressed upon the hearts and lives of the people of our Church. O Lord our God, we pray Thee that Thou wilt baptize the missionaries with the spirit, baptize them for the dead. Give them his patience and long suffering and tenderness and sym-



pathy and ability and, above all, his power of prayer and his patience. And grant, O God, this afternoon as we lay tribute to Thy glory and Thy cross on the memory of Thy servant, that we may walk henceforth in the inspiration of such a life on higher levels and more ample service and unto larger horizon of vision and accomplishments, seeing we are compassed about this day as we have never been by a greater company of those who have inherited the light and the joy of Thy glory. Help us to lay aside every weight that does so easily beset us in the task of evangelizing the world for which Christ died, and to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking not back to the dead or around to the living, but looking up unto Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith and of our tasks. And we ask it for his glory, Amen.

DR. COE: As has already been said, Dr. Cobb began his ministry as a missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and his personal relations with that Board were close and constant. A message of honor and sympathy from that great Missionary Society will be brought this afternoon by Dr. Patton, its Secretary.





## · ADDRESS: DR. PATTON

It is a very great privilege to join in this service and to bring the greetings and appreciations of the officers of the American Board. We had hoped that our President, Dr. Capen, would be here, and that was his own strong desire, as he held Dr. Cobb in very deep affection and great admiration; but he is held by imperative engagements. He has asked me to read this message to you:

“Dr. Cobb was universally recognized as one of our great missionary statesmen. The early years spent as a foreign missionary in Persia in the service of our Board gave him an experience which fitted him in an unusual degree for his later duties in the home office. This experience made it possible for him to enter into sympathy and close fellowship with men and women who were bearing heavy burdens at the front. He was unerring in his judgments; his knowledge of men and things was so extensive that he rarely made an error; it was safe to follow his conclusion. He seemed never to be thrown from his balance, for he had poise and sanity for every emergency. He combined strength of purpose with a kind and loving spirit, so that he made his influence felt without ever injuring the feelings of others whom he might be compelled to oppose. All who met him felt the power of his Christian purpose.

“There was another characteristic of Dr. Cobb’s which ought to be noted—he never grew old. He did not feel as though the best days were in the past; the best things for him were to come. As an illustration of this, no one entered more quickly than he into the plans of the Laymen’s Missionary Movement. At the very first meeting of the officers of the boards, when these plans were first presented, he was among the first to recognize its possibilities, and with no uncertain voice expressed his approval.

“While we shall all miss him in our councils this will be especially true of you in the home office and of the members of your committee who were brought so constantly in touch with him.

There will be sadness in the hearts of all your missionaries who had in him a brother and friend.

"I hope I may be permitted this further personal word. When ten years ago I was elected President of the American Board I felt that the burden was a heavy one, especially in the thought of the men who had preceded me. I shall never forget the warmth and cordiality of the greeting I received from Dr. Cobb at the time of the Ecumenical Conference, when I met him almost for the first time upon the platform at Carnegie Hall. His hand of welcome and his words then spoken were an inspiration. That cordiality and kindly spirit he showed always and everywhere to the end of his days, and I feel as though I had lost a loving and devoted friend.

"While I would express to you in the name of the American Board and for myself personally these words of sincere sympathy and regard, there is in all our sadness a great note of rejoicing over the life of such a man. He has been a fellow worker with Jesus Christ through long years in the noblest work in the world. We are the richer and better, and the nations as well, because he has lived. He has been faithful even unto death and has already looked into the face of the Master whom he loved, and heard from His own lips the glorious words: 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord.'

"The truth contained in these lines seems to be especially applicable in what we call the 'death' but which is really the coming into the larger life of Dr. Cobb:

'Were a star quenched on high  
For ages would its light  
Still traveling downward from the sky  
Shine on our mortal sight;  
So, when a great man dies  
For years beyond our ken  
The light he leaves behind him lies  
Upon the paths of men.'"

I am sure that every one connected with the American Board will echo these sentiments of our President and will cherish the memory of this great and good, this noble man, as one of the most

precious heritages which we have, because we do claim him as our own, almost. How very intimate have been the relations of these two Boards for practically one hundred years, living together, like two brothers in the same home, of common origin, of common experience, with the same history, exhibiting the same ideals, proceeding on the same principles in missionary work, following very closely even the same methods at home and abroad. When the brothers went their separate ways it was not to be separated but to follow out their parallel courses, each one trying to live out and develop the best things which they had shared together, and of all the personalities which have helped to combine these Boards so closely together in this brotherhood of experience and service Dr. Cobb has been the leading one, without any doubt. A great deal of it has been through Dr. Cobb on the one side, and it has come almost in our office to amount to this, that we have thought of this holy fellowship as personified in this one man. He seemed to us to exemplify in his own personality those qualities of faith and of light which we have come to believe characterized the body of churches which he served, this Reformed Church in America, and so we have come to think of him to a large extent as the Board itself. Practically all our dealings this way were with him, and all, without a single exception, were a joy and a delight, without a suggestion of friction or difference. If his relations to the missionaries and to his associates, as we have heard this afternoon, were ideal, I certainly can say the same as to his relations with the American Board, and I doubt not the same is true with all the missionary boards. I like to think of the changes this man has lived to see, and which he has had a considerable share in bringing about. I was speaking in Canada not long ago about the remarkable change in China, and I happened to allude to a prayer meeting, held in 1840, when all the Christians at Hongkong were gathered together in a room about fifteen feet square. A lady was in the front pew. I noticed her face light up, and after service she came up and said that she was a girl in London in 1840, when that prayer meeting had been held in Hongkong, and that they had heard of it and

held meetings all through their churches praying that God would open a door in China. Think of one person living to see those colossal achievements in that work. Here was Dr. Cobb, not going quite as far back as that, and yet with fifty years of active service and participation at home or abroad in these things. What he has seen in China and Japan and Corea and India and Persia and Turkey catches one's imagination. It makes one realize the majesty of a work like this, to which he committed his life. Oh, friends, if there is any one thing in the world which ought to turn out great men it is this work of foreign missions; if there is any one subject on the face of the earth wherein man ought to be trained into nobility of character and greatness, of judgment and breadth of vision, it is at the council tables of these great foreign missionary organizations. I have no doubt it would be his own testimony that if he has contributed something to this work he also has received in his own character mighty things out of this work.

My own acquaintance with him was so very recent that I hesitate to mention it at all, but I cannot forbear to speak of the impression he made upon me in the last six years, of this exquisite quality of kindness which all of you know so much about. He reminded me of the life of that good Bishop of Cambray—Fenelon. When his district was devastated by the English Army, their homes burned, their cattle driven out into the highways, the good Bishop came along and they came out to him and told him of their losses, and he comforted them, sending them back to their work to rebuild the desolation by laying his hands upon them and simply saying: "I know, I know." I can imagine this relation, this beautiful relation of sympathy to which allusion has been made, between Dr. Cobb as the Corresponding Secretary and his missionaries, how on one of these visits to the field about which we have heard, when they told him of their troubles, he could say: "I know, I understand." To feel that Dr. Cobb knew and understood was better comfort than a good many people know. With that remarkable sanity of judgment, what a noble committeeman he was, absolutely fair toward men, with a strong sense of justice, an honest willingness to

take the other man's point of view and see things through his eyes, and credit him with his own energy and judgment. To behold these—sympathy, kindness, sanity, fairness—in such perfect poise is a remarkable thing. But after all, dear friends, we know the sources of it; we know that like every service of this kind it was simply a following of the great exemplar, Jesus Christ. We know it was the shining out through this man's personality of those qualities of the blessed Master, and all praise be to Him. I know that for one I can say that my life is going to be stronger and better and, I hope, far more useful because of my even slight acquaintance with this splendid man, and because I have been able to be here, this afternoon, to enter into your fellowship of sympathy and love.

DR. COE: In recent years Dr. Cobb's personal relations with the officers of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, with which he has been in constant conference in regard to the great problems which concern our common interests, have been very close, and there is no one who can speak of them with greater and deeper knowledge or intimate personal regard than our friend, Mr. Speer.





## ADDRESS: DR. SPEER

The judgments of love are confessedly biased judgments. That is what makes them true. It is the bias of perfect faith and perfect trust that lifts them above the error of our mere human opinions into the truth and the kindly discernings of God. And it is that love for Dr. Cobb which is in all our hearts here today which enables us, as we have been doing, to judge so justly of what he has been and of what he has done. I rejoice that it is out of twenty years of intimate and filial fellowship with him that I can come down here today representing, as Dr. Coe has said, the missionary organization which, perhaps, of all outside of his own lay closest to him in his relationship of intimacy in missionary service.

We counted him as one of our own missionaries. The history and traditions of the old mission to the Nestorians, which had been connected with the American Board, passed over to our own Church at the time of the reunion of the Old and the New School Churches, and Dr. Cobb's name is borne on the roll of the missionaries of our own body. During all these years that he has been connected with your own Board his relationships have been almost as intimate and as close with ours. The identification of the work of the Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church in Japan unified their interests and responsibilities there, and brought Dr. Cobb during all these years into such association with the officers of our Board as made us one council, in one fellowship, with regard to the problems in that Empire. If he ever chanced to come in when other affairs were under consideration it was not necessary to interrupt that consideration, for it was felt that he had his rightful place in that companionship regarding any of the problems of the Kingdom of Christ at home or abroad.

I should like to speak not only of all we learned from him and have lost in him in that relationship, but also in a broader view. I can remember the first day, seventeen years ago, when the representatives of the different foreign missionary societies of the

United States and Canada came together for the first time, beginning those annual conferences which have never been interrupted, and in which Dr. Cobb has always been one of the most beloved and trusted leaders. I think almost every member of that first little gathering has passed away—Dr. Clark and Dr. Judson Smith, of the American Board; Dr. Murdock and Dr. Duncan, of the Baptist Missionary Union; Dr. Peck, Dr. Reid and Dr. Baldwin, of the Methodist Society; Dr. Langford, of the Episcopal Board; Dr. Chambers, long president of your own, and Dr. Cole, Dr. Ellenwood and Dr. Gillespie, of our own; Dr. Dales and Dr. Barr, of the United Presbyterian, and, not the least of that great company, the dear one whose memory we are gathered here today to honor. He was almost the last one of that older company of men who carried the foreign missionary enterprise through those days when the foundation was needed to be laid, when it had to be justified and vindicated, before ever it had come to its own, as it has now in the days of us who have followed those who have passed beyond.

We rejoice this day in the memory of all that Dr. Cobb has been in those relations. The memorial of the Classis that has been presented and the words which Dr. Patton has just spoken lay just emphasis upon the wisdom of his counsel, the sobriety and sanity of his judgments. There was no one whose judgments were more trustfully anticipated than his, or whose judgments were less impersonal than his, or more temperately or more gently expressed. They rested on his own calm view of principles regarding which his mind was ever open and his will ever firm. We shall go forward more wisely in days to come in the inheritance of his calm, temperate, kindly wisdom.

We learned constantly in that school of loving fellowship with him a great and reverent sense of responsibility and just reverence for every duty, large or small. Those who were associated with Dr. Cobb in the Board of Directors of the Clifton Springs Sanitarium, which was one of his dearest interests, will never forget the lessons they learned constantly from him in that comradeship. He was a faithful man, not only in his thoughts about God but in his



faithful life in God and in the world as a servant of God. Fidelity underbased all his doings. To many there will come back, as their minds recall what he was and what he did, gentle recollections of his unselfishness and humility. He was not one, as we know, who obtruded himself, nor was he one to shrink from any responsibility, but he was one who sought no responsibility that was not properly his own. He walked in lowliness of mind and, therefore, men sought to place him in positions of leadership.

No one has referred thus far to the playfulness of his humor, to that delight in little things that made him one of the most charming of companions always. When the work of the committee meeting was over, when the discussions of the Board of Directors were done, there was no one with whom it was a greater delight to sit down for the quiet flow of human intercourse than Dr. Cobb. We know well how destitute the gentle current of his life was of everything malicious. He was one who fulfilled the purpose of Jonathan Edwards, so to order his life that he would never do anything out of ill will or revenge. There was no low mindedness, no self will in any thought of Dr. Cobb's in relation to the work or to the problems or to men. All we can recall about him here today is attended by no bitterness. No one memory can come back to any one of us that is not fragrant and sweet with the gentleness and beauty and kindness and Christliness of his pure and loving spirit.

We learned from him one last great lesson through all those years during which the missionary enterprise had to contend with much, with antagonism and opposition and unbelief in the Church, with criticism in the public press, and with the natural selfishness of the human heart. Those were days when men had to believe, and we learned from him the lesson not to be alarmed or concerned because there are clouds in the sky, because there seem to be insuperable obstacles before us. He believed mightily in God and God justified his belief. Encouraged by the memory of such great and unassailable faith, we look up on skies that are not cloudless, forward to roads that are not free from their hindrances and impedi-

ments, believing still that He who vindicated our fathers' trust in Him will vindicate also our own.

In those blessed memories we rejoice today, and our joy is not tinged with any feeling of regret that he is not with us. We would fain have him still here, but it is a far-better country whither he is gone; it is a far-richer service that is opened to him there than was possible here. Beyond the sweat and dust and tears of life, beyond the hindrances and limitations that beset even the best and Christliest souls here, he is working now, we know, the great work of the good before God Himself, looking upon His face. Last summer at the annual meeting of the missionaries of our united churches in Japan, Dr. Wyckoff read a paper on Guido Verbeck, and he closed with an extract from a letter of Dr. Cobb, which Dr. Cobb had written to him shortly after the tidings of Verbeck's death had come. "The more I think of it," he wrote, "the greater the loss appears, yet we could not expect to keep him always, and such a departure is ever so much better than protracted feebleness or suffering; it is the nearest to translation that this poor world knows." And far from desiring that all this should have been withheld from him a little more we rejoice today that he is where he would be, and now delivered from all that hindered and free with an infinite liberty, and looking upon the face of One whom all those years having not seen he loved, he still has his part, a larger and a richer and a more powerful part, we know, in everything that affects the desires of his Lord and ours. May his memory enable us to walk in his own spirit of loyalty and of love.

## PRAYER: DR. VANCE

O God, we thank Thee for the fellowship of this hour, for its holy influence, for the visions and dreams which come to us as we tarry here for a little while in this sanctuary of remembrance. We thank Thee for the fellowship it gives with Thee and with the sainted dead. We thank Thee for the fellowship of this hour, O Lord, with Thy work and with Thy workers. We bless Thee for a cause so great that great and good and glorious as is Thy dear Son, He was not too great and good and glorious to serve this cause and to die for it. We thank Thee for all these who have followed in His train, for all the great souls of time who have caught the spirit of the Christ, who have had His love continually in their hearts, who have gloried in His grace, and who have lived and laid down their lives for His Kingdom. We thank Thee for great and good men who are not too great and good to give their best to Christ's cause and who, giving their best, felt that they did not give too much. We thank Thee with all our hearts for this faithful servant of Thine, whom we hold and shall always hold in sweet and loving remembrance. We thank Thee, O God, that he lived for a cause, that he has given his life in this service; we bless Thee that Thou didst give him such a long life of splendid usefulness for the greatest and best of all the causes that human life may serve. And now in the afterglow of his life, as we gather here, we would make this service a service of dedication, we would seek for a closer walk with Thee, we would pray that there may come upon every one of us a double portion of his spirit and of the spirit of all those who have served the Christ and the Christ cause in the world. Speak a word at this time. We worship Thee as the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and we find in Thee a permanence from our fleeting and our transitory lives. We thank Thee that no life given to Thee can ever be lost and nothing done for Thee can ever be lost. We commend Thy peace to those Thy children who have lost from their home the comradeship and fellow-

ship, the homeloving, the gracious, strong, loving presence of this man, Thy servant. And comfort Thy Church, we pray Thee. Speak a word of peace to all our hearts, and give us, likewise, at this time a call to duty. Baptize us for the dead and baptize us for the living, too. O God, we pray that Thou wilt kindle our hearts anew with devotion to Christ and His cause. Teach us why Thou hast placed us in the world, give us a larger vision at this time, something afresh to do in this great work of the conquest of the world in the name of Jesus Christ. And as the workers fall we pray that Thou wilt fill the vacant places in the ranks and call the young men and women of our land to the service of Christ, call them for the great and good and useful and unselfish devotion to Him and His Kingdom. Thus be with us and sustain us as one by one we finish our work and cross the silent flood unto Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. And to the one wise God our Father be honor and glory and dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

# MEMORIAL MINUTES

THE FOREIGN BOARD AND ITS MISSIONS



# MEMORIAL MINUTES

## THE FOREIGN BOARD AND ITS MISSIONS

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### The Board of Foreign Missions, R.C.A.

**T**HE Reverend Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, passed away at his home in East Orange, N. J., on Sunday afternoon, April 17, 1910.

The Board desires to place on record its profound sense of loss in his going hence—a loss common to the Board and to the Arabian Mission, as well as to the entire Reformed Church.

Dr. Cobb was elected a member of this Board in 1874. He had previously given two years of missionary service in Persia. His membership on the Board revealed him to be a man of such value that upon the retirement of the Rev. John Mason Ferris, D.D., as Corresponding Secretary in 1882, Dr. Cobb was immediately elected his successor. He has given the Board twenty-seven years of distinguished and growingly valuable service. During his administration the work in all the missions has greatly advanced, the number of missionaries has trebled, the receipts have increased almost fourfold. It was during his incumbency that the Arabian Mission was organized in 1889 and has grown to be one of our strongest missions. He twice visited our missions in Asia, in 1892 and 1904, receiving the warmest welcome from the missionaries, greatly endearing himself to the Oriental Christian constituency, and by his valuable counsel greatly strengthening the efficiency of the work in every country which he visited.

Dr. Cobb possessed rare gifts for the work to which he gave the richest and latest years of his life. He was a man of large vision, of keen discernment, of poise and strong business sense, of great Christian convictions, of sustained and kindling enthusiasm. He



had a most thorough knowledge of every aspect of the great work of world evangelization. He was recognized within and without the Church as a great missionary statesman. He gave his whole self to the work in tireless industry, in the utmost promptitude, in the most patient attention to every detail, in his most faithful and highly appreciated correspondence with the missions and with individual missionaries, in his endeavor by voice and pen to deepen interest in the churches at home in the work abroad, in his correspondence with prospective candidates, in his willing and most helpful identification with every movement which contemplated the enlightenment and enlistment of the constituency at home or the expansion of the work abroad.

We thank God that he gave the Board and the Church and this great cause so many years of his most fruitful life. We cannot but record the privilege and the joy of fellowship with one so strong, so gentle, so lovable, so true, so believing, so Christlike. We shall long miss his wisdom, his counsel, his inspiration, his presence among us. We shall long cherish his memory and pray for grace to press on in the way of world winning for Jesus Christ, in which he so long led us forward.

## The Amoy Mission

When the cable flashed to us the news that God had called home the Reverend Henry N. Cobb, D.D., our hearts were bowed under a weight of sorrow and a sense of loss which words cannot express. During the long years which our Lord gave to Dr. Cobb to work for him in the Board of Foreign Missions of our Church we have come to know how justly deserved was the encomium pronounced at the Ecumenical Conference in New York when he was called "that prince of missionary secretaries to whose efficient efforts is so largely due the success of this meeting." In our work in China and in our place in the home church on every side we see the results of his ability, efficiency, consecration. He has gone, and God will call out the one whom He has prepared to assume



his place of leadership, but his works, done in self-effacing love, will follow him.

In Dr. Cobb's death not only have we lost the Secretary whose model letters and remarkable administrative ability made it a privilege to work with him, but we have lost the personal friend whose friendship and sympathy has been an influence in the life of each missionary who has served under him. In adopting this minute to record our grief at his death, our appreciation of his services and friendship, we recognize that this is not only our bereavement but that we are mourning with the Board, our sister missions, our whole Church, in the loss that we all feel now and will feel more and more deeply as time brings around these occasions which were wont to call forth his sympathy and help.

To his widow, who for fifty years shared the burden of his activities, his joy in the work and the love of his friends, and to his children, who will with us gratefully cherish the blessed memory of this good man, we extend the deepest sympathy of our sorrowing hearts and the assurance of our prayers that "our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace," may comfort their hearts and give them peace at all times in all ways. May our Lord hasten the fulfilment of that prayer which Dr. Cobb lived and helped us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come," so that soon we shall all meet him and the multitude who received their knowledge of salvation through him in that host who are "before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple, whose Shepherd is the Lamb who shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life."

FRANK ECKERSON,

*Secretary.*

## The Arcot Mission

The members of the Arcot Mission, who had recently to record the death of the honored President of the Home Board, the Rev. Dr. Mancius H. Hutton, are now called to mourn the loss of the

beloved Corresponding Secretary of our Board, Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., who passed away on the 17th of April, 1910, after fifty years of distinguished service to the Church and its missions. In acknowledging the sense of our bereavement at Dr. Cobb's death we find it difficult to obtain words that will suitably express our high estimate of his character and work.

Rarely has it been given a man to combine in his person such a variety of spiritual and mental gifts. To us as missionaries his career was especially an inspiration. Dr. Cobb spent the first years of his ministry in the foreign field, where his love for missions developed into a passion which never left him. Obligated to return to America on account of ill health, he served for some time as pastor in the home church, when he was elected Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, bringing to the office a wealth of resources peculiarly adapted to so responsible a position. His eminent executive gifts, his catholicity of spirit, largeness of vision and winning personality won for him a high place among missionary statesmen, as evidenced by the leading part assigned him in the annual Conference of Foreign Mission Boards, and by his appointment as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Conference of Foreign Missions held in New York in 1900.

In his special work of correspondence with the missions Dr. Cobb could not be surpassed. While loyal to the Board as its executive officer, yet, in communicating actions unwelcome to the missionaries, he always did it in so kindly a way as to considerably mitigate any disappointment, while his earnest efforts and moving appeals against "cuts" in time of financial stringency at home were no little solace to us.

Although Dr. Cobb's talents as an administrator gained for him among us the title of "the model Secretary," yet it was his preeminent personal graces that especially endeared him to all the workers on the field. In him every missionary realized that he had a personal friend. None of us will forget the delightful and sympathetic letters that we have received from him, written with his own familiar

hand and penned in the midst of large and heavy official correspondence.

During Dr. Cobb's three decades of office as Corresponding Secretary the missionary force of the Arcot Mission was doubled and the work increased several fold. His two visits to the Mission will long linger in the memory of ourselves and the Indian Christians.

To Mrs. Cobb in her loneliness we tender our warmest sympathy, as well as to the children bereft of an affectionate father and companion.

L. B. CHAMBERLAIN,

*Secretary.*

## The North Japan Mission

*Resolved*, That the North Japan Mission desires to record its deep appreciation of the more than twenty-five years of faithful service of the Rev. Dr. Henry N. Cobb. During his many years of personal and official relations with the members of the North Japan Mission, by his exalted piety and faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ, by his missionary zeal and faith in the triumphs of Christianity and the success of the cause of missions, by his wide catholicity of spirit, his sympathy with the aspirations of the churches of the Orient and his courteous and sympathetic treatment of the members of the mission, in the many trying experiences and problems that have arisen, Dr. Cobb's services have been such that we cannot but feel that the Church he represented, the cause he so warmly and nobly advocated and we, ourselves, whom he so consistently sustained in the confidence and warmth of Christian fellowship have suffered what might seem an irreparable loss.

It has always been a comfort to know that Dr. Cobb had himself been a missionary on the foreign field, which, with his two memorable visits to the mission fields of our own Reformed Church, made him appear more like one of our own members and enabled him, by personal experiences, to enter into sympathy with us, to

share our burdens and confidences and to be the wise and considerate counsellor that he was to all his brethren.

It is, therefore, with most grateful hearts we record our thanksgivings to the great Head of the Church for the gift of such a wise and beloved brother and fellow helper unto the establishment of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour upon the earth.

Nor would we fail to express our thanks for the wide and lively interest he took in national and political affairs in America and all lands, which enabled him to keep us in touch with all that makes for the coming of the Kingdom among men.

On behalf of the North Japan Mission.

JAMES H. BALLAGH,  
EUGENE S. BOOTH.

## The South Japan Mission

The South Japan Mission has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., for so many years the Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions. Dr. Cobb's term of service as Secretary antedates that of even the oldest living member of our Mission. For us Dr. Cobb has been the Board of Foreign Missions. We have known the latter and the Church's organized missionary spirit chiefly through his communications, and as a result we have, as a Mission, for years looked up to him with something of filial regard. His letters to the Mission were models of what such communications should be. Their style was singularly lucid and in surprisingly few words fully set forth the Board's views, even on most intricate problems. Yet his letters were never the dry record of actions taken. They were ever colored with the writer's warm personality, real interest in the individual missionary and intense zeal for the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world. It could hardly have been expected that a personal element should be injected into such communications, and yet chiefly through them, to a surprising degree, our missionaries came to feel that Dr. Cobb had a personal knowledge and a personal interest in the circum-

stances of each one. Where it was his duty to dissent or correct it was done with such evident regret and in such an unselfish spirit that to take offense was well-nigh impossible. It is a pleasure to recall to what a large extent he has influenced the views and life purposes of each one of us. We, as well as the Church, have lost greatly by his passing away, but his years of service have left with us all a rich heritage which will be with us always.

The Mission hereby directs its secretary to enter the above expression of our sense of loss upon the minutes of the Mission, and to forward a copy to the Board.

WILLIS G. HOEKJE,  
*Secretary.*

## The Arabian Mission

The missionaries of the Arabian Mission herewith wish to express their sense of the loss which our work has suffered in the recent taking away of our revered Secretary, Dr. Cobb.

From the inception of the Mission and throughout its career Dr. Cobb was a sincere friend of the effort, as our older missionaries can testify. No word of his discouraging the new independent Mission can be remembered, and when finally it was taken under the care of our Church he was always clear and definite in expressing his opinion that the Arabian Mission had not been and would not be a loss to the older work in other fields. Nor did he ever hesitate to express his belief that our Reformed Church would and should take its share in the redemption of Arabia. His steadfast faith, his wise counsels and his personal interest will always be held a potent factor in the development of our Mission.

But the thought that is uppermost in the heart of each worker is that we have lost not only a leader and a sympathizer, but a *friend*. His faithful and helpful words of farewell on leaving the homeland and his cheery welcome on landing in New York never failed us. Cordially accepting of personal confidences and sharing, so far as he could, in the burden of personal responsibility, his individual letters of appreciation, sympathy and hope will be always treasured by

those who received them. As a man, a brother and a father his memory is a stimulus to us, his life an example.

With all the missionaries of our Church we mourn his loss to the work but rejoice that he has entered into his rest and reward—looking forward to that triumphant day when, the victory won, we shall stand by his side and hail our Lord as Conqueror and King.

JAMES CANTINE.



# MEMORIAL MINUTES

THE BOARDS OF THE REFORMED CHURCH





# MEMORIAL MINUTES

## THE BOARDS OF THE REFORMED CHURCH

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### Woman's Board of Foreign Missions

From MRS. DEWITT KNOX, *Recording Secretary*:

At the meeting of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, held May 17, I was asked to express to you the sympathy of the managers in the great loss, common to us all, of dear Dr. Cobb, and to assure you of our loyal cooperation and support in every way possible.

To the Woman's Board Dr. Cobb was the most perfect friend imaginable, so patient, so wise, so kindly in every word and deed, and not without the saving grace of humor. He had "the undivided will to seek the good, to compel the elements and to wring a human music from an indifferent air," and he was truly,

One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph.

And as we know "no power can die that ever wrought for truth," so his courage, his devotion will be a lasting influence to lead us forward.

### The Board of Domestic Missions

From the REV. JAMES I. VANCE, D.D., *President*:

A great Christian is one who has room in his heart for all the interests of Christ's kingdom. Dr. Cobb was in this respect, as well as in others, a great Christian. He was enough of a Christian statesman not to see that dim line the Church, for administration

purposes, runs between the Church at home and the Church abroad.

The records will be searched in vain for any word or act or hint from him that might be construed as a betrayal of any feeling of jealousy toward or any lack of interest in the work of the Board of Domestic Missions.

Those of us to whom the Church has committed the oversight and direction of our missions at home have known beyond a doubt that we could count on the intelligent sympathy and warm cooperation and hearty support of the Corresponding Secretary of Foreign Missions. It never occurred to us to try to guard our peculiar interests in our dealings with Dr. Cobb, for we knew he was sound enough in judgment and great enough in heart to guarantee a broad and catholic and fair treatment of all matters in which the two Boards touched.

He was the soul of considerate and thoughtful courtesy in all his dealings with all his brethren, and it was a delight and an inspiration to be associated with him on committees and in projects for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Truly his was a rare spirit, and the beauty of his devoted and unselfish service, the charm of his gracious personality, the sincerity and noble dignity of his life and the beauty of his fine soul will long be treasured by the Church. The foreign missionary work of our Church is greatly bereft by his death, but we who are charged with the work at home feel that our loss is not less profound.

## Women's Board of Domestic Missions

From MRS. JOHN S. ALLEN, *Corresponding Secretary*:

The Women's Board of Domestic Missions requests me to convey to you their very deep sympathy in the bereavement that has come to your Board in the loss of the Rev. Dr. Henry N. Cobb, your beloved Corresponding Secretary.

His beautiful spirit, unerring judgment and wise counsel will be greatly missed in the fellowship of our Church home.

Truly we are all bereaved and share with you and the Church at large the consciousness of a great loss.

## The Board of Education

From the REV. THEO. W. WELLS, D.D., *President*:

The Board of Education of the Reformed Church in America desires to express to the Church's Board of Foreign Missions its sincere regret and hearty sympathy because of the loss the Board has sustained through the recent death of its very able and efficient Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D. He was eminently endowed with the peculiar qualifications his position demanded and the work to which he was called required. His natural abilities of no mean order, faithfully trained and entirely consecrated to the service of Christ, were an equipment which directed and used as his whole-hearted devotion to the cause of foreign missions might determine, made him a power in the Church that seldom failed to awaken zeal and enkindle enthusiasm for the world's evangelization. His long term of service makes his death a loss to the Church at large and causes many a one to wonder why one so fitted for the duties of the office he occupied should be taken out of the world when he was so much needed. We cannot understand it. God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, but for the comfort of the hearts of his bereaved He has given us the cheering word, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." God makes no mistakes. This is our comfort. All is well. The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. You sorrow now because you miss the sound of a familiar voice and an accustomed greeting. We sympathize with you in your sorrow, but we sorrow not without hope. The workmen fall by the way but the work goes on. Be of good cheer, brethren.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Now His command rings out clearly and distinctly: "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature." By and by, yet a little while, and the same voice will whisper in our ears: "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

# MEMORIAL MINUTES

OTHER BOARDS AND SOCIETIES



# MEMORIAL MINUTES

## OTHER BOARDS AND SOCIETIES

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### The Announcement of Dr. Cobb's Death to the Boards

NEW YORK, April 21, 1910.

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America announces with profound sorrow and with a deep sense of its own loss and that of the Church which it represents the death, on Sunday, April 17, of the Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., for more than twenty-seven years its faithful and beloved Corresponding Secretary. The Board is assured that its own sorrow will be shared by the secretaries and officers of the boards of other churches who have been so long and intimately associated with Dr. Cobb.

A Memorial Service in commemoration of the life and work of Dr. Cobb will be held in the Collegiate Reformed Church, West End Avenue and 77th Street, on Monday, April 25, at 3 o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by Dr. Fagg, Dr. Capen and Dr. Speer, of the Reformed, the American and the Presbyterian Boards. Representatives of other boards will be welcomed at the service.

### Conference of Foreign Missions Boards of the United States and Canada

NEW YORK, February 12, 1911.

From MR. W. HENRY GRANT, *Secretary*:

The Conference of Foreign Missions Boards of the United States and Canada desires to record its high appreciation of the

character and services of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D. His unfailing courtesy and capacity for personal friendship bound him with ties of affection to all who have had the privilege of fellowship with him.

He attended the first meeting of the Conference in 1893, and, in all attended fourteen out of its eighteen sessions, serving on a number of committees, and taking the deepest interest in all its proceedings. His paper on "Self-Support in the Native Church" may be said to have given a new impetus to that movement and to have induced the efforts of the Conference to make this a matter of spiritual helpfulness to the native churches.

Dr. Cobb was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Conference, New York, 1900, and he, with the Secretary, acted as an Emergency Committee which settled all questions of order arising during the Conference.

Henry Nitchie Cobb was born in New York City, November 15, 1834, and died at his home in East Orange, N. J., on Sunday afternoon, April 17, 1910, aged seventy-five years. He graduated from Yale College in 1855, and from the Union Theological Seminary in 1857. He was licensed and ordained by the Third Presbytery of New York in 1860, and in that same year was sent out by the American Board of Foreign Missions as missionary to the Nestorians in Persia and Koordistan. After two years of service his health gave way and he was compelled to abandon his chosen life work and to return to America. He became pastor of the Reformed Church in Millbrook, N. Y., where for fifteen years he rendered faithful and acceptable service. During that period, in the year 1877, General Synod of the Reformed Church in America elected him a member of its Board of Foreign Missions, of which board he became the Corresponding Secretary in 1882. The wisdom of the board's selection was increasingly manifest during the twenty-seven years of his service, closing with his death.

Dr. Cobb's personal qualities were of the highest and most winning type. He was extremely modest, a man of singular pur-



ity of character, with an innate and beautiful courtesy of manner, a whole-souled kindness of heart, calm and self controlled, patient and yet steadily persistent amid the weighty responsibilities that marked all his years of varied service, as foreign missionary, as pastor and as leader in the administration of the missionary work of the denomination.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary send copies of these resolutions to Doctor Cobb's family and to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

If I were called on for personal testimony, it would be that Doctor Cobb has been, during the past seventeen years, in which the Boards have met annually, one of three or four of my most constant and balanced counsellors. One of the greatest evidences of the value of his counsel is in the firm establishment of the Annual Conference itself as shown by the active cooperation of about fifty boards in its meetings and through its committees.

## Committee of Reference and Counsel, Conference of Foreign Missions Boards in the United States of America and Canada

NEW YORK, April 27, 1910.

From the REV. ARTHUR J. BROWN, D.D., *Chairman*.

With a profound sense of personal loss, the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel have learned of the death of our colleague and brother, Dr. Henry Nitchie Cobb, on Sunday, April 17, 1910. Dr. Cobb was the senior in service among the secretaries of the Mission Boards of the United States. With a maturity and sanity of judgment incalculable in value in the councils of this committee and to the Mission Boards of North America; of unfailing courtesy and a capacity for personal friendship that bound him with ties of affection to all who were permitted to cooperate

with him in an official or private capacity, Dr. Cobb occupied a unique place in our confidence and love.

We desire hereby to express to Mrs. Cobb, all the members of the bereaved family and to the Mission Board of the Reformed Church in America our sympathy with them in their sorrow.

A multitude scattered throughout the world, while mourning their own loss and the loss to the cause of missions, nevertheless rejoice in the boundless service Dr. Cobb has rendered the cause of the Kingdom, and the assurance that the work he did will go on in increasing force and power.

It is recommended that this action be spread upon the minutes of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, and sent to Mrs. Cobb and to the Foreign Mission Board of the Reformed Church in America.

## American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

BOSTON, MASS., April 21, 1910.

From the REV. DR. JAMES L. BARTON, *Senior Secretary*:

Personally, and on behalf of the American Board, I wish to express our sense of loss in the death of Dr. Cobb. We have always felt that the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America and the American Board were as close together in their ideals and practical operation as any two mission boards in the world. I have personally felt that in Dr. Cobb I had an adviser and a friend upon whom reliance could always be placed and who never failed to command confidence by the wisdom of his advice and suggestion. But beyond all this it has been impossible to be associated with Dr. Cobb as I have been associated in the last twelve or fifteen years, and not to have a bond of affection formed which has been continually strengthened as the years have gone on. And yet when we think of the fullness of the life that he lived and

the great service which he has been permitted to render to the cause of missions both at home and abroad, we cannot but thank God for him, for the ripeness and fullness of the service, and that he was not called upon to pass through a long period of suffering, but experienced a brief transition from his service here on earth to eternal fellowship with the Lord, whom he served so well. Our sympathies are with you and with your association.

## The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

NEW YORK, April 30, 1910.

### I. From the REV. DR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, *President*:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America at a recent meeting learned with sorrow of the bereavement which your Board has sustained in the lamented death of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., your Secretary, and instructed me to express to you their deep sympathy.

By his qualities and his work Dr. Cobb had made himself the property of all the churches, and especially endeared himself to those whose privilege it was to be associated with him in prosecuting the great enterprise of foreign missions.

Will you kindly inform his family that we of the Presbyterian Board share your loss and theirs?

NEW YORK, April 19, 1910.

### II. From DR. ROBERT E. SPEER, *Senior Secretary*:

It was with the shock and grief which one would feel upon sudden news of his own father's death that I read in yesterday's paper of Dr. Cobb's going. I have loved him with a filial love for many

years and shall miss more than words can say the perfect confidence and intimacy of this blessed friendship. I offer my deepest sympathy to your Board in its great sorrow.

## Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (South)

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 9, 1910.

From the REV. DR. S. H. CHESTER, *Senior Secretary*:

The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions has learned with profound sorrow of the death of your venerable and beloved Secretary, Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., and hereby extends to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America its cordial sympathy in this great loss and bereavement. The cooperative work carried on by our mission and yours in Japan has been the occasion of a great deal of correspondence and many personal conferences with Dr. Cobb, in all of which he ever showed himself to be a man of clear judgment, broad sympathies and of a warm and loving heart.

## Foreign Missions Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada

TORONTO, April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. R. P. MACKAY, *Secretary*:

I have just received your note announcing the death of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D. It was not my privilege to enjoy the intimate acquaintance of Dr. Cobb, and yet I feel as if I had lost a dear and personal friend. In the annual conferences of Board secretaries he was always conspicuous, and the more so because of his

quiet modesty and gentle spirit, as well as by the intellectual grasp and clear conviction manifest in every utterance and in all his bearing. He was a loving apostle and to an unusual degree represented the spirit of his Master. I had a great affection for him, and his presence will be sadly missed in the days to come.

What the loss will be to the missionaries to whom he so long and faithfully ministered none other appreciate. He was a father as well as a friend. Thank God for the gift of such a man.

It is needless to say that to him the change is blessed. He has seen the King in His beauty and has entered upon the fullness of His joy. May the memory abide as an inspiration in your Church, and especially in all your mission fields.

Were it in my power it would be a melancholy pleasure to be present at the memorial service. But that is not possible. Please accept my sincere sympathy in this, your sorrow, and I know my Board will wish to be included in this expression of sympathy and the fellowship of suffering.

## The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 25, 1910.

From the REV. DR. C. R. WATSON, *Secretary*:

The announcement of the death of Dr. Cobb came, bringing profound sorrow and a great sense of loss to us all. Personally, my acquaintance with Dr. Cobb had led to a feeling of deep affection for him. His uniform kindness, his deep sympathy and his marked courtesy drew me to him, and resulted in an increasing admiration for him and his character. Of course, in Board circles we feel his loss even more greatly.

His wise counsel and his broad sympathy and his strong faith, made him one of the most valuable advisers in our conferences.

You will extend to your Board in behalf of our own the assurance of our sympathy with you in your loss.

It is a matter of regret that I cannot be in New York to share in the memorial service which is to be held today at the Collegiate Reformed Church. Our sympathy is extended to you by telegraph.

## Board of Foreign Missions, Reformed Church in the United States

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 23, 1910.

From DR. J. ALBERT BEAM, *Acting Secretary*:

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States has received the announcement of the death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., the Corresponding Secretary of your body, with deep sorrow and a keen appreciation of your loss and ours. The influence of his life and work, however, will continue to inspire all who have been associated with him in the advancement of the cause to which his life was devoted.

It is a cause of much regret that the President of this Board and the Secretary are not in America at the present time and the Acting Secretary has an engagement which prevents his being present at the memorial service.

Accept the assurance of the heartfelt sympathy of every member of this Board.

## American Baptist Foreign Mission Society

BOSTON, November 17, 1910.

From the REV. DR. F. P. HAGGARD, *Home Secretary*:

Dr. Cobb was one of a noble group of older missionary leaders upon whom we younger men look almost with reverence. It was



a pleasure to anticipate an annual meeting of the Conference of Foreign Missions Boards because of the hope entertained of meeting Dr. Cobb and his fellow workers. To me he was a singularly attractive character. I always liked to hear him speak. His voice and manner had peculiar charm and wisdom flowed from his lips. It was not permitted me to be intimate with him, but again and again I derived profit from his counsels and the inspiration of his presence. The secretaries of our Board felt a personal loss when he left us. He helped us more than the average man to forget our differences, to recognize our points of agreement and to magnify the high privilege we had of working together for a great common cause. We shall miss him in our councils, as I dare say the Board which he served for so many years misses him in its work. His memory will abide. His life was a benediction and continues to be a source of inspiration to those who would broaden their horizon and give themselves to the larger service of the Kingdom.

## Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

RICHMOND, VA., April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. R. J. WILLINGHAM, *Corresponding Secretary*:

Your letter is received in which you conveyed the sad news of the departure from earth of Dr. H. N. Cobb, your noble Secretary, who for so many years has stood faithfully at the helm. It was not my privilege often to meet this consecrated, noble servant of our Lord, but from time to time I had that pleasure at our various mission gatherings. I learned to esteem and love him. He was one of the Lord's noblemen and a saint in Zion. Not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of our Board, I extend to you and to your Board our sympathy.

## General Conference of Free Baptists

HILLSDALE, MICH., April 23, 1910.

From the REV. DR. HENRY M. FORD, *Secretary*:

It is with deep regret that I learn through you of the death of Dr. Cobb, who has for so many years figured so conspicuously in the work of foreign missions, as the Corresponding Secretary of your Board. In his death we sustain a profound sorrow and incalculable loss. We shall miss his face in the missionary convocations.

## Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE, KY., April 28, 1910.

From the REV. DR. L. G. JORDAN, *Corresponding Secretary*:

The Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention hereby extends its sympathy to you and your co-laborers in the loss of the late Dr. Cobb. We pray the Lord that even in his death he may make stronger appeals for the spread of God's Kingdom than during his life.

One by one, we who labor for the good of others, are going to our rest and are leaving to those who survive us a richer legacy in Christian service than when we began.

## Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church

NEW YORK, April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. HOMER C. STUNTZ, *Secretary*:

It was with very deep regret that we learned of the death of Dr. Cobb. We will have a representative of this Board present at the memorial service. I deeply regret that previous engagements will prevent my presence.



## Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South)

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 23, 1910.

From the REV. DR. W. R. LAMBUTH, *Secretary*:

The announcement of the death of Dr. Henry N. Cobb is received with a profound sense of loss and of personal bereavement. Dr. Cobb was a tower of strength to the secretarial body. During the past eighteen years I have known him intimately and have not only respected him for his ability, but held him in high personal esteem for his piety, his modesty and his devotion to the cause which he served with such conspicuous success.

There was no secretary in the United States or in Canada who had a clearer insight into difficult missionary problems, was better poised, nor was there one who could be more freely relied upon for sound judgment at all times.

The secretaries and officers of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, do indeed share your sorrow and deep sense of loss. May his mantle fall upon the one who shall succeed him in office, and the blessing and peace of God fill the heart of Mrs. Cobb and those members of the family who survive him.

## The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada

TORONTO, April 26, 1910.

From the REV. T. E. E. SHORE, *Asst. Secretary*:

We have received with profound sorrow the information of the death of Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., your revered Corresponding Secretary. I have been privileged to attend the annual meetings of the Mission Boards Conference during the past four years, and I

have been associated with Dr. Cobb upon a number of the committees of that conference. There has been no figure in missionary circles with which I have been more impressed during these years than that of Dr. Cobb. He possessed in a marked degree the qualities of Christian statesmanship, with his deep sympathy, inspired vision and calm judgment. We shall miss his words of wisdom in the councils of the mission Boards of North America, but will be inspired by his life work to the greater attainment of our ideals in missionary work.

## The Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church

BALTIMORE, MD., April 23, 1910.

From the REV. FRED C. KLEIN, *Secretary*:

The announcement of the death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., for so many years the honored and efficient Corresponding Secretary of your Board, causes me personal sorrow. I met his brother when I was a missionary in Japan, and recall the excellent addresses he delivered there. When I first attended the Conference of Foreign Missions Boards I made myself known to Dr. Cobb, and spoke of his brother's visit to Japan, and from that hour I felt drawn to him. He commanded my esteem and confidence in no small degree, and his qualities of head and heart gained for him a commanding place in the conference, where his deep interest, sound judgment, strong faith and loyal devotion to the great interests of the Kingdom of Christ always exerted a pronounced influence. We will greatly miss him in our annual gatherings, where his cordial greeting awaited us, and where he added so much to the good fellowship and success of the meeting. Such a man and his work are a great blessing to any church, and his memory rightly will be cherished as an example to others. I regret very much indeed that,

owing to the pressure of many official duties, I am denied the privilege of attending the memorial service, but I will be there in spirit.

## General Missionary Board, Free Methodist Church of North America

CHICAGO, ILL., May 13, 1910.

From the REV. B. WINGET, *Secretary*:

I am sure that you and your Board have my most hearty sympathy in the midst of the great loss which you have sustained in the death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D. D., who, for so many years, has been such a faithful, beloved and efficient Corresponding Secretary of your Board.

From the human standpoint of vision we can hardly see how such men can be spared, but in the midst of our loss we acknowledge the wisdom of Him who calls His servants from labor to reward, and look to Him to provide more laborers to fill the vacancies made by those who have been discharged.

## The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, U. S. A.

NEW YORK, January 30, 1911.

From the RIGHT REV. ARTHUR S. LLOYD, D.D., *President*:

It gives me pleasure to recall the very pleasant social relation that always existed between Dr. Cobb and me and the constant help and inspiration he was to the men to whom like work had been committed. The exactness of his knowledge and the serenity of his faith were always helpful. In conference the Doctor was always considerate and patient. His outlook was always broad and gen-

erous. He will be missed from the council of the men who bear the weight of responsibility for the Missionary Boards.

It is pleasant to think that a permanent record of his long and devoted service is being prepared, as such records help to keep before us all the purpose for which we are called and are no doubt a potent influence for the help of and inspiration to the young people.

## The Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, United States of America

BALTIMORE, MD., April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. L. B. WOLF, *Secretary*:

I was deeply grieved to hear of the death of Dr. Cobb, which news I learned on my arrival in New York on the 20th inst., at the meeting of the secretaries. He was indeed one of God's noble men, wonderfully sympathetic and gentle. I never knew him to be ruffled in temper in all my acquaintanceship of over ten years. I am glad indeed to have been privileged to meet and work with one so consecrated and devoted.

## The Society for Propagating the Gospel Among the Heathen, The Moravian Church in America

BETHLEHEM, PA., April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. PAUL DE SCHWEINITZ, *Secretary*:

It is with profound regret that I have heard of the death of Dr. Cobb. I have known him personally for more than eleven years. We served on the Committee of Reference and Counsel together for

six years. The last time that I spoke to him was in January of this year, when we lunched together, and when he told me that he was looking forward to celebrating his golden wedding anniversary this year.

Permit me to express to your Board my deep personal sympathy and likewise the sympathy of our Board. We are in a position to sympathize with you most keenly, because for the first time in the one hundred and seventy-eight years of our mission history we have lost a member, and a most valued member, of our Mission Board at sea. The Rev. Ernst Reichel went down on the ill-fated "Prins Willem II," while en route to pay an official visit to our mission in Surinam.

I wish I could be present at the memorial service, but I can not very well be there. I will suggest to my colleague, Bishop Morris W. Leibert, D.D., to represent us.

## American Friends' Board of Foreign Missions

RICHMOND, IND., April 22, 1910.

From MR. CHARLES E. TEBBETTS, *General Secretary*:

I am sure the announcement of the death of Dr. Cobb will bring a deep sense of loss to all our mission Boards, and to all who are interested in mission work. His long experience and his practical knowledge of the work in its various departments made his counsel specially valuable. I am sure we are now so bound together in the common feeling of the world's need and the common consciousness of Christ's power to meet the need that the dropping out of the ranks of one whose life has been so conspicuously useful will bring to us all a feeling of bereavement. Permit me to join with you in your sorrow and extend to you my heartfelt sympathy.

## Mission Board of the Christian Church

DAYTON, OHIO, May 10, 1910.

From the REV. M. T. MORRILL, *Secretary*:

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the Mission Board of the Christian Church I wish to express our profound sorrow on account of the death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., so long a trusted servant of your Board. We have all profited by his thorough devotion and wise counsel. Had it been feasible our Board would have been represented at the memorial service. At its annual session our Board will be asked to put on record a resolution touching your great loss.

## Foreign Christian Missionary Society (Disciples)

CINCINNATI, OHIO, April 25, 1910.

From MR. F. M. RAINS, *Corresponding Secretary*:

In the death of the Rev. H. N. Cobb, D.D., your Board has lost a valuable executive and the good cause of Christian missions a warm and faithful friend. We extend to you and your associates sincere sympathy in your great loss.

## China Inland Mission

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 22, 1910.

From MR. F. H. NEALE, *Secretary*:

Permit me to thank you for your courtesy in sending to us an intimation of the death of Rev. H. N. Cobb, who was for so many years the honored Corresponding Secretary of your Board. Please accept an expression of our heartfelt sympathy with you in the great



loss your work has thus sustained. We feel that his removal, indeed, will be a distinct loss to the work of foreign missions throughout the world, as it will be mourned by the representatives of the foreign mission bodies of North America.

## American Council, Africa Inland Mission

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 23, 1910.

From MR. J. DAVIS ADAMS, *Executive Secretary*:

The Executive Committee of the American Council of the Africa Inland Mission desires to express its sympathy and its sorrow because of the loss of your valued and highly esteemed associate, Dr. Cobb.

May God, who in His wisdom saw fit to promote Dr. Cobb, give grace and comfort to his loved ones and guidance to his former associates in the work with which he has so long been connected.

## American Bible Society

NEW YORK, April 22, 1910.

From the REV. DR. WILLIAM INGRAHAM HAVEN, *Secretary*:

I am this morning in receipt of your favor of the 21st of April. I assure you we all of us deeply mourn the death of the Rev. Dr. Cobb. I had peculiarly delightful relationships with him not only in the conferences in which we were associated as secretaries, but in the Bureau of Missions in which he took an interest and in the occasional meetings on the trains back and forth to where we resided in neighboring towns. He was such a lovable character. He did me good and I wish to express my personal sorrow and sympathy with you and others that are bearing this loss.

## American Tract Society

NEW YORK, April 23, 1910.

From the REV. DR. JUDSON SWIFT, *Secretary*:

The officers and Executive Committee of the American Tract Society were greatly pained to learn of the death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., who has been for so many years the efficient and consecrated Secretary of your Board of Foreign Missions. His life work has been most unusual, and he will be remembered as one of the most faithful servants of the Church that he so deeply loved and served.

We extend to you our sincerest sympathy in this hour of your great loss. Our faith, however, is triumphant in the consciousness that our beloved brother is enjoying the abundant reward awaiting him.

## Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions

May 6, 1910.

From DR. JOHN R. MOTT, *Chairman, Executive Committee*:

I learn with deep sorrow of the homegoing of my highly valued friend, Dr. Cobb. I owe more to him than I can express. Through all these years I have turned to him repeatedly for suggestion and counsel, and had come to repose complete confidence in his advice. Never shall I lose the benefits which came from fellowship with him. Kindly assure the members of his family of my sincere sympathy.

## Laymen's Missionary Movement

NEW YORK, November 11, 1910.

From MR. J. CAMPBELL WHITE, *General Secretary*:

Among all the valuable friends and counsellors of the Laymen's Missionary Movement no one has been more interested or



sympathetic from the beginning than Dr. Cobb. On many different occasions he has taken pains to express his deep interest in the work of the Movement, and to make valuable suggestions concerning the best methods of carrying it forward.

His death has been a distinct loss to us as well as to every missionary organization in America.

## Young People's Missionary Movement

NEW YORK, April 23, 1910.

From MR. HARRY S. MYERS, *Ass't Gen. Secretary*:

I desire to express the sympathy of our Movement in your great loss, and we share with you the sorrow which comes not only to your Board but to the cause of foreign missions, which for so many years has lain so near to the heart of Dr. Cobb.

We are all indebted to him for his interest in our Movement and in us personally, and his many words of helpfulness and cheer.

## The Clifton Springs Sanitarium Co.

CLIFTON SPRINGS, N. Y., July 5, 1910.

From MRS. MARY E. FOSTER, *Secretary*:

The death of Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., which occurred on Sunday, April 17, 1910, removed from our Board of Trustees one who had been associated with us since 1891, and who was the senior trustee in term of service. He was greatly interested in the life and work of the sanitarium, and always proved a valuable helper at our annual meetings. His health was always delicate, and the responsibility of his office as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Reformed Church in America taxed his strength greatly, but he rarely missed an annual meeting here unless prevented by his official duties.

An interesting incident connected with his decease is that he would have celebrated his golden wedding anniversary if he had lived four weeks longer, and that Mrs. Cobb also passed away before the wedding day, so they were united in the Heavenly Home.

The unfailing courtesy of Dr. Cobb and his ready aid in any discussion of knotty questions was very marked and helpful.

We are glad to express our appreciation of his faithful service, and to extend the assurance of our sympathy to his son and daughter in their bereavement.

MEMORIAL MINUTES

ECCLESIASTICAL BODIES



# MEMORIAL MINUTES

## ECCLESIASTICAL BODIES

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### The Millbrook Reformed Church

REVEREND HENRY N. COBB, D.D.,

and MRS. MATILDA VAN ZANDT COBB.

The Millbrook Reformed Church hereby records its profound respect and grateful affection for Rev. Dr. Henry N. Cobb and Matilda Van Zandt, his beloved wife. Dr. Cobb came to Millbrook before the church was organized and remained its pastor for fifteen years. To him and his wife is due very much of the success that has been attained.

They have left a blessed memory here; the fruits of their sowing still abide in this entire community. Their lives are examples of what may be accomplished by earnest and unselfish Christians. "They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided." Together they labored and together they have gone to their reward.

With the bereaved children we most tenderly sympathize and commend them to the God of all Comfort, yet we rejoice that "He giveth his beloved sleep," and that after toil comes rest, and after lives full of service, the crown of rejoicing.

(Signed) J. E. LYALL,

WILLIAM R. ANDERSON,

*Committee.*

### The Classis of Poughkeepsie

The Classis of Poughkeepsie, at Rhinebeck, April 19, 1910, made the following minute, and ordered it sent to *The Christian Intelligencer* and to the family:

We share the profound sorrow of our entire Church—and the much larger circle of friends and Christian workers—at the death of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, the beloved Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions.

Our claims for expressing our grief rest upon his long membership in this Classis. For fifteen years, while pastor of the Millbrook Church, and for twenty-nine years more, up to the day of his death, we knew him as a faithful servant of God; we remember him as a self-denying friend; we cherish the memory of his kindness to all with whom he had aught to do; we recall his eloquent advocacy of the foreign missionary cause, to which he gave his life; we mourn that we shall see his face no more, yet we know His work was done, for God called him home.

We assure his bereaved wife and children of our tender sympathy, and our fervent prayer in their behalf, and we bid them hear with us the Master's voice saying to their beloved: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

J. E. LYALL,

J. R. DUFFIELD,

F. R. BENJAMIN,

*Committee.*

## The Classis of New York

The Classis of New York, met in stated session this nineteenth of April, 1910, desires to put on record an expression of its profound sorrow at the death, on the seventeenth instant, of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., the efficient and beloved Corresponding Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions. At the beginning of his ministry he gave himself to the foreign missionary work and was for two years a missionary of the American Board in Persia. Compelled by the failure of his health to return to this country, he served for fifteen years as pastor of the Reformed Church of Millbrook, N. Y., and was for several years an active member of our Foreign Missionary Board. In the autumn of 1882 he became its Corre-

sponding Secretary and filled that position with eminent ability and fidelity till his death. To his sound judgment, unwearied devotion and profound faith the success and enlargement of the work of the Board have in great measure been due. He had the entire confidence, the sincere respect, and in unusual measure the personal affection of our own Church, and other boards and churches looked upon him as one of the leaders, of largest experience and greatest wisdom, in this world-wide movement. While we grieve that we shall see his face no more, we rejoice in the enduring results and the stimulating example of his most useful life.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing minute be spread upon the records of the Classis and published in *The Christian Intelligencer*, and that a copy be sent, with the assurance of our sincere sympathy, to the family of Dr. Cobb.

EDWARD B. COE,  
GEORGE C. LENINGTON,  
A. J. MUSTE,

*Committee.*

## The Particular Synod of Albany

Since the last meeting of the Particular Synod of Albany, our denomination has sustained an irreparable loss in the death of the Rev. Dr. H. N. Cobb, who for twenty-seven years labored untiringly as Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions for the extension of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially in those lands not yet enrolled among the Christian countries of the world. Be it therefore

*Resolved*, That we unite our voice with the many individuals and organizations which have already expressed their heartfelt appreciation of his work, rendered with such blessed and enduring results.

*Resolved*, further, That beside embodying this expression in the minutes of the Synod, a copy be sent to the bereaved family, and another for publication in *The Christian Intelligencer*.

## The General Synod, R. C. A., June, 1910

We record our deep sense of sorrow and of great loss which we have suffered during the past year by death in the official membership of the Board.

Well-nigh irreparable loss has been suffered in the death of the Rev. Dr. Henry N. Cobb, for thirty-six years a member of the Board, and for twenty-seven years its Corresponding Secretary, who died April 17, 1910. For more than a generation this missionary statesman gave to the Board distinguished and valuable service.



# MISCELLANIA

EDITORIAL TRIBUTES



# MISCELLANIA

## EDITORIAL TRIBUTES

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### The Christian Intelligencer

I. April 20, 1910.

Following close upon the announcement of the death of Dr. Otte, of our Amoy Mission in China, comes with equal suddenness that of the death on Sunday at his home in East Orange, N. J., of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., for nearly thirty years the efficient and greatly beloved Corresponding Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions. The passing of these dear brethren and faithful servants of God from their important fields of labor to their rest and recompense is not only a heavy affliction to those officially and intimately associated with them in their work, but a sore bereavement to our entire Church, with whose foreign mission interests they have been so long, so closely and so essentially identified. What to them after an exceptionally useful career in the service of the Church and its supreme work, that of world-wide missions, is great gain, is to us, indeed, a lamentable loss. Their work was done, and well done, and their passing from the scenes and labors of earth to "the rest that remaineth" is a call and inspiration to us who tarry here yet awhile, to do with our might what our hands find to do, for the night cometh. Dr. Cobb was born in this city in 1834; was graduated from Yale College in 1855, and from the Union Seminary in 1857. He was licensed and ordained in 1860 by the New York Presbytery and was sent out by the American Board as missionary to the Nestorians in Persia and Koordistan. Returning, after a period of devoted service, to this country, he became pastor in 1866 of the Reformed Church of Millbrook, N. Y., which charge he relinquished in 1881 to take up the duties of Corresponding Secretary

of our Board of Foreign Missions, in which capacity he faithfully served the rest of his days. Dr. Cobb received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Rutgers College in 1878. We can only add, in this hurried and brief notice, that Dr. Cobb was widely influential and esteemed beyond denominational limits; served on many important committees, and was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Council on Foreign Missions, which met in this city ten years ago.

## II. April 27, 1910.

The resolutions of sympathy and respect which are coming into this office from every quarter also show the hold that Dr. Cobb had upon the affections and regard not only of our own Church and her missionaries and native Christians, but upon those of the friends of missions in every land. He was of such singular kindliness of thought and righteousness of life that the phrase "a Christian gentleman" may be most worthily and accurately used in describing his character. His was a life of whole-hearted devotion to that which with all his heart he believed to be "the greatest work in the world"—the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature—and the influence and results of his life work will long abide with those who knew him and those for whom he labored. Of him may be most truly and reverently said: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works do follow them."

## The Leader

April 27, 1910.

Called upon again to use the heavy black line, impressed anew with the fact that the mourners go about the streets, and that the fell destroyer death walks ruthlessly among the messengers of the

Gospel of eternal life, by the sudden translation of the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., the well-known and beloved Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, the triumphant note of the great missionary worker gives some comfort. Death and the grave may seem to snatch a temporary victory, despoil the Lord's battle-field of valiant and devoted warriors when He goes forth to war, and rob his host of chosen heroes and leaders, but, faith in Him who liveth evermore and assurance that all things work together for good to them that love, gives the challenge to the grim enemy of humanity and its redemption, in this defiance of a lively hope: "O grave, where is thy victory; O death, where is thy sting!"

The deceased was, in his remarkable personality and in his faithful, painstaking toil the timely gift of the Head of the Church to our household of faith in behalf of his work in the regions beyond.

A minister of the Gospel, with a knowledge of the demands of a missionary's task, and with the experience of a successful pastorate, he came to his cherished work of "toiling for the Master and for men" thoroughly qualified and well equipped, ever proving himself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

To crowd it into this brief space, our dear departed friend, whom many of us knew and met and heard, was a believer of large sympathies and of a most hopeful disposition, born of faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. His was a burning zeal fed by a passion for souls held in the bondage of darkness and sin. He felt that upon him and his office and by its activities upon the entire church was the burden of the Lord's great commission: Go ye and preach.

As the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, he was loyal to the whole counsel of God, he believed in all the promises of God given to the Saviour of the world and withal the love of God always constrained him.

May his mantle fall upon and his spirit rest upon his successor, and may his works follow him into that coming happiness when he, too, shares the joy of his Lord in seeing of the travail of their souls, in so far as the servant may share the Master's portion.

## The Missionary Review of the World

June, 1910, and January, 1911

Another devoted missionary statesman has gone. The death on April 17th of the Rev. Henry Nitchie Cobb, D.D., removed one who for nearly three decades exercised a widespread influence as Missionary Secretary of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, and who was distinguished for his untiring energy, his ripe judgment and his wide experience in missionary affairs. By his departure the Church and the cause of missions have suffered a great loss.

## The Mission Field

June, 1910

### A PRINCE AND A GREAT MAN

If Abner was entitled to so high a designation as a mighty warrior before the Lord, how much more is our beloved and translated Doctor Henry N. Cobb entitled to it!

We do not fully appreciate how large a space a high and stately tree has occupied, what a wealth of life it has represented, what a generous and inspiring shadow it has cast, until it is swept down by some fierce wind or is cut down by the woodman's ax, or, ripe to the tip, it falls when all the woods are still.

It is so with men who have held strategic and important posts in the life of the Church and the world. Those who saw most of Dr. Cobb, and who go back to where this lordly and lovable life once stood with such stability, that it seemed among the things unshakable, feel most deeply what a great vacancy the transplanting of this tree of the Lord has left behind it.

What a wealth of personality has gone with his going! His was the strength of a well-knit trunk; his was the gentleness and pliancy of the tender branches; his was the playful and brightening

humor of the sportive leaves; his was the heaven-outreaching of the climbing and expanding crown.

What a wealth of wisdom has gone with his going! What extensive and minute and immediately available command he had of the whole subject of world evangelization. He knew, or knew of, all the great leaders, the great achievements of the Gospel far and near, the delicate and difficult issues that arise in the coordination and consolidation of a work once simple and rudimentary, but growing more complex with every year of expansion and advance. What remarkable papers he would prepare that would shape policy in empire-wide church movements. They were such as a Secretary of State like Webster or Hay might prepare in connection with some great and complicated international affair.

With him were treasures of wisdom and knowledge on which we drew freely and constantly, scarce imagining that the treasure house might ever close its doors and be borne elsewhere.

What a wealth of sympathy has gone with his going! He was the father and friend of every missionary. "Like a father pitieth his children," so Dr. Cobb took to his heart the missionaries and their families. Every concession for their comfort that was legitimate he pleaded for. He gave advice to missionaries' children, every missionary's sorrow struck home to his heart and brought forth words of comfort. He saw the expanding work and felt for the men and women at the front, who were again and again held back by a church which, though interested, did not fully see the urgency of the need, the promise and potency of the opportunity.

What a wealth of enthusiasm has gone with his going! His was the sustained glow of anthracite—not the splutter and smoking flame of bituminous. He never lost interest in the great work he was guiding and helping on. It was always of superlative importance to him; he was always ready to advocate it, and any slur on this work would set his soul all a-kinde. With what fervor and power he pleaded his cause year after year at the General Synod!



What a wealth of fragrant and quickening memory still permeates the air, though the noble tree-trunk and branch and bloom are gone.

No; this was not a tree! This was a man! This was a man of God. This was a Captain-General of the Lord of Hosts. To the last his call was Onward! Forward! So ours is the clarion call to battle; ours is the call of the Cross. Let confidence in the great Captain of our salvation, let the magnitude of the issues at stake and the prospect of the sublimest of all triumphs in view move us to wheel into line and keep in line. High or low, far or near, let us take our place and fight to the finish.

## The Mission Gleaner

June, 1910

Not only the Reformed Church, but the Church Universal, mourns the loss of Rev. Henry N. Cobb, D.D., whose death occurred in East Orange, N. J., on April 17. For nearly thirty years Dr. Cobb was the greatly beloved Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. The tender and beautiful address of Rev. E. B. Coe, D.D., at the funeral services of Dr. Cobb; the many testimonies, both public and private, and the tributes of the memorial service held in New York, when representatives of other denominational Boards united in expressions of loving appreciation of his beautiful character, as well as to his long and efficient service for the Master, all these leave little that can be written here. Mrs. Cobb for more than twenty years was editor of the *Gleaner*. The following letter from the Board of Managers of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, through the pen of its Honorary President, Mrs. P. D. Van Cleef, is the expression not only of the loving sympathy of the Board, but of the entire body of women in the Reformed Church:



25 EAST 22D STREET,  
NEW YORK, May 3, 1910.

OUR DEAR MRS. COBB:

The hearts of the Board of Managers of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions are grief-stricken at our loss in the departure of dear Dr. Cobb. It is an irreparable loss; we may not hope e'er to see his like again. He has been our benign counselor, guide and sympathizing friend, ever patient and courteous. We loved him, and will hold his name precious in memory.

To you, Mrs. Cobb, his cherished wife and life companion, to the son and daughter he so dearly loved, we would express, what language cannot adequately express, our tenderest, loving sympathy in your heavy bereavement.

You and we bow to the Heavenly Father's will, knowing that He never makes mistakes, and thanking Him that He has given to the Church the beautiful character, beneficent influence and consecrated devotion of Henry Nitchie Cobb.

We commend you to the Lord, whom you have served together for so many years, and whose consolations abound to His own. With tender recollections of all that you have been to us and with assurance of our abiding love, we are,

YOUR SISTER ASSOCIATES IN THE

WOMAN'S BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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Just as we go to press comes the startling news of the death of our beloved Mrs. Henry N. Cobb, for many years a valued member of our Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, and, until a few years ago, the editor of this magazine. Although she was debarred from active work for some months, on account of failing health, we have constantly felt the inspiration of her sympathy and her clear and comprehensive acquaintance with all of our work. We are doubly bereaved in the death of Dr. and Mrs. Cobb; but while we grieve for ourselves and feel the deepest sympathy for their dear children,

we can but rejoice through our tears that the days of separation are over and that together they are in the presence of the Lord, whom they loved and so faithfully served here on earth. To them has come the fulfillment of the promise, "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

### God's Plan

*"As for God, His way is perfect"*

H. N. C.—M. V. Z. C.

We planned a rest for him;  
After long years of service begged him lay  
Aside his tools, and fold his charts away,  
And stay his busy, care-worn hands—and then  
God gave completer Rest.

We planned a home for her  
In sunlight land bedecked with flowers gay,  
Where every debt a loving child could pay  
To dearest mother might be paid—and then  
God gave a brighter Home.

We planned a day for them,  
A festival of gladness tinged with pain,  
To gather up the fragments that remain  
Of earthly loves before the night—and then  
God gave an endless Day.

We dreaded death for them.  
For how could one alone pursue the long,  
Long weary road without the other's song?  
Our little faith saw not His plan—for then  
God gave them ageless Life.

—E. P. C.

[NOTE—Written for the Golden Wedding Day, May 17, 1910.]











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In memoriam ...

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